جوردان تايعر يومية سياسيَّة بتُصدَّر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية والراي،

Iranian pilot seeks Saudi asylum

NICOSIA (R) — As Iranian helicopter pliot landed at a Saudi Arabian sirport Friday and sought sayium for himself and his five-member faintly, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. It quoted a Ministry of Defence and Aviation official as saying the pilot flew into Saudi sir space over the Gulf at very low sittiade. "He sent a signal of peace and pleaded for help to land at the nearest airport on the east coast (of the Kingdom)... the authorities concerned responded to his request," the official said. SPA, received in Cyprus, said the helicopter was detected by early warning systems at 6 a.m. (0300 GMT) Friday. The pilot was accompawife, three children and a sister-in-law. "He expressed his desire to seek political asylum in the kingdom," it added without elaboration. Saudi Arabia, long at odds with fran's Muslim fundamentalist leaders, broke relations with Tehran in 1988 after accusing it of hostility and interfering in the kingdom's internal affairs. The break came nearly a year after 401 people, mostly Iranians, were killed in a clash between Sandi security guards and demonstrators who staged an anti-Western rally in the Holy City of Mecca during the Haj pligramage.

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AMMAN SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1990, DHUL HIJJEH 29, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Sandi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

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the raidable WASHINGTON (R) - The State Department hinted Friday that the U.S. government had acted to block the export of three advanced industrial furnaces to Iraq because of fears they would be used for nuclear weapons development. Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler acknowledged the department was aware of a proposed export deal and was working te, the his with other government agencies to address the issue. "In this regard, we understand that the Department of Commerce, under the export administration act, has taken certain steps to deal with this matter," she told reporters. Tutwiler refused to provide any details or say for sure if the export of furnaces had been blocked. The New York Times reported Friday that the decision to block the export was reached at the White House and came after the Pentagon and a bloc of Republican senators urged President George Bush to keep the furnaces out of Iraqi military

De Klerk, Mandela set date for talks

CAPE TOWN (R) — Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela and South African President F.W. de Klerk agreed Friday that talks hetween the African National Congress (ANC) and the government would resume Aug. 6. De Klerk's press spokesman Caspar Venter said Mandela requested the meeting in Pretoria, which lasted over an hour, after he returned Wednesday from a six-week tour to Africa, Europe and North America. It was the first meeting between the two men since June 2, when they discussed progress following the first official ANC talks with the white government in May.

Rebels close in on Liberian capital

MONROVIA (AP) - Advancing rebels captured much of the northern part of the capital Friday, squeezing most of the few hundred remaining government troops into a narrow strip of land on both sides of President Samuel Doe's executive mansion. The rebels, led by former Doe aide Charles Taylor, overran Monrovia's five-square-kilometre port area in the northern suburb of Bushrod Island. They advanced toward the two bridges linking the island to the centre of the city. Infiltrating rebel troops fought pitched battles with goverament soldiers who remained on Bushrod Island, witnesses

Explosion kills 4 on Soviet train

MOSCOW (R) — Four people were killed and 10 injured in an explosion on a passenger train-near the Black Sea, a Soviet Interior Ministry spokesman said Friday. Police were searching for an Azerbaijani man who had shouted to other passengers that there would be a blast just before the explosion near the Russia-Ukraine border Thursday, he said. "We cannot say yet whether it was a bomh," the spokesman for the ministry's transport department in Moscow said, but he described the incident as "premeditated act."

Court throws out North's conviction

WASHINGTON (R) - A U.S. court of appeals Friday threw out former White House aide Oliver North's three-count criminal conviction in the Iran-contra scandal that rocked Ronald Reagan's presidency. The ruling was a major setback to the independent special prosecutor who is still probing the secret sale of U.S. arms to Iran and the diversion of profits to Nicaragnan contra rebels in 1985-86, when such military assistance was banned by Congress. North, a national security aide who masterminded the operation, was convicted last year of destroying secret White House documents, helping to obstruct efforts by Congress to learn about the scandal and accepting an illegal gift in the form of a \$13,800 home security fence from

Diplomatic efforts under way to settle Iraq-Kuwait dispute

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Arab League Secretary- General Chadli Klibi flew to Kuwait Friday to join other Arah efforts to settle the border and oil crisis between Iraq and Kuwait.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Hosni Muharak of Egypt added their voices to calls for moderation in the repture between the neighbours, once allies in the eight-year Gulf war. Klibi was to discuss with Kuwait's leadership its call for an Arah committee to demarcate the tiny state's 160-kilometre border

with Iraq before moving to Bagh-Kuwait called for the demarcation Thursday replying to Iraqi claims that it was stealing oil from within Iraqi territory and install-

ing military and agricultural posts on Iraqi soil. Iraq has demanded compensation for an estimated \$2.4 hillion of allegedly stolen oil. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has also charged Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of causing \$14 billion in lost oil revenues for

He said production by the UAE and Kuwait beyond ceilings set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) caused a recent fall in oil prices. He threatened force to stop the overproduction.

. In the Iraqi memorandum to the Arab League against Kuwait, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said the Kuwait deeds were tantamount to "military aggression" which Iraq could no longer

Kuwait countered by saying

by Iraq. It did not specify but was obviously alluding to an Iraqi claim to Kuwaiti territory in the 1960s following the British colo-

nial pullout from the area. Kuwait's media played up the "noble Kuwaiti stance and sacrifices" during the Iraq-Iran war, when the country was target of Iranian missile attacks, attacks on its vital oil shipping lanes and bome terrorism by pro-Iranian

Kuwait was second to Saudi Arabia in an Arah effort which pumped some \$40 billion into Iraq's coffers during the war. The UAE was also a contributor.

Iraq renewed attacks on Kuwait and the UAE Friday despite the diplomatic efforts to halt the growing row.

Iraq's official press said Kuwait with "deep regret." and the UAE could not be trusted to abide by commitments to cut back oil production, despite pledges to do so at an emergency meeting in Saudi Ara-

"This is not the first time that commitment and then breached it in disregard of... patriotic and national interests and the interests of other OPEC states," the government daily Al Jumhur-

World oil markets remained very quiet Friday ahead of next Arab solidarity. week's meeting in Geneva of the 13-nation OPEC and confusion over the Gulf situation.

The UAE issued a statement, carried by Bahrain's Gulf News Agency Friday, saying Iraqi attack on its oil policy "is rejected

"Iraqi allegations casting suspi-cion on the UAE oil policy are rejected and unfounded," UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah said in a letter to Klihi.

The UAE position in OPEC is known and honourable," he said in the letter.

The letter said: "Defending the world oil market is a collective responsibility hy producers inside and outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries."

"The UAE has once again proved its keenness towards oil market stability and OPEC unity by reducing its output to levels below its quota."

Abdullah, who asked Klihi to distribute his letter to the league's 21 member-states, said the UAE had received the Iraqi charges

"Emotional charges... are bound to lead to negative repetcussions on the Arab drive towards unified action and would only benefit the enemies of the Arab Nation," he said.

"The UAE believes that probthe two governments made such a lems and Arah differences, if present, should be resolved in the spirit of brotherliness, wisdom and mutual respect," the letter added.

Most Arab leaders have called on all sides to cool the quarrel, which has also put strains on

Editor Mafouz Ansari of one of Egypt's main state-owned newspapers, Al Gomhouryia, accused Klibi of fuelling the dispute by not hesitating to circulate Iraq's initial hlast against Kuwait. Diplomats in Kuwait did not

placed official source.



His Majesty King Hussela, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and senior officials, recites verses from the holy Koran at the tomb of King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, the founder of the

King marks anniversary of grandfather's death

AMMAN (J.T) — His Majesty King Hussein, who returned home late Thursday after visits to Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Oman, marked the anniversary of the death of the founder of the Kingdom, King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, by visiting the tomh of the late King and reciting the verses of the Koran.

The King was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and senior officials.

During his three-day visit to the tip of the Arabian peninsu-la and the Gulf, the King held talks with the leaders of Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Oman on the latest developments in the Arab region and bilateral relations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The King was accompanied on the visit by the prime minister, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Political Advisor Adnan Ahu Odeh.

Findings of corruption probes go before Lower House today

By Journana Halasa and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The findings of over three months of investigations into nine possible cases of corruption to go before the Lower House of Parliament Saturday, when the chamber will begin studying the cases and decide on further action where "ministers" - meaning serving and former Cabinet members — are involved.

All findings of investigations have been sent to the Lower Honse hy the prosecutorgeneral's office, and at least four projects investigated have been found to involve "ministers" in possible corruption cases, informed sources said

Testimonies taken from dezens of senior officials, including several former cabinet members, implicate "ministers" in possible corruption in the Swaqa prison project, the Abu Nseir housing complex project, the King Talal Dam project and the Al Jafr-Azraq highway project - according to a highly-

The reports have already been sent to the Lower House," said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity. The interpretation of related articles in the Constitution

states that any case involving a "minister" should be referred to the Lower House, and all such cases should be tried by a special court on which sit some of the highest-ranking judges in the Kingdom.

The House will appoint a committee which will be entrusted with studying the findings which implicate "minis-ters" and presenting recommendations to the full House, which will take a vote to decide whether to send the issue to the special court for trial. Every case should have a two-third majority endorsement of the House before it could be sent to

the special court. The House is not bound by the findings of the prosecutorgeneral whether there is a case or not, said Abdul Latif Arabivat, spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood in Parliament. "If need be, we will ask for fresh investigations wherever needed," he told the Jordan

At least three specific allegations involving a "minister" in each have been found to be lacking in substantive evidence, according to the source. But, as Arabiyat stressed, "it is not for the prosecutor-general to decide whether to drop a case or

Legal proceedings in possible corruption cases involving former or serving officials below the rank of ministers and husinessmen as well as "middlemen who could be key witnesses" have already been launched and at least two people were arrested and released on JD 10,000 bail each last week, the source said.

The two, identified here only as A.N. (a contractor) and M.A. (an accountant) in view of laws related to revealing names of people on trial, were detained Tuesday and freed on bail Wednesday. The arrests were made in light of findings of probes into the Abu Nseir project, and are related to the supply of equipment to the complex, according to the

No precise figure of the amount of the contract was immediately available. Bnt, said the source, "there is strong evidence to support the charges against the two." Formal court proceedings are expected to be-

gin in mid-August, he added. "It is only one case related to the Abu Nseir complex project. the source said. "There are at least a dozen other cases linked to various other phases of construction of the project. "More arrests are being considered," he added.

The main charge in the case raised by the Lower House was that how the project, which was originally estimated to cost around JD 24 million, had ended up with a total cost of JD 36 million. Related charges also cover exemptions from penalties extended to contractors without going through the formal procedures, according to

However, the most serious charge is expected to be levelled against a "minister," according to the official source.

Since the clearance to arrest or try a "minister" for any crime he (or she) is suspected of having committed while in office has to come from the Lower House, all aspects of cases where a "minister" is involved have been sent to the House while the prosecutorgeneral's office has launched proceedings against others in the regular courts," the source explained.

er House last week represent three and a half months of investigation following a request by the House through the

The findings sent to the Low-

(Continued on page 4)

Petra Bank liquidation process begins today

By Sahar Qara'een and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The government Friday formally set the wheel in motion for the liquidation of Petra Bank, heralding the beginning of the end of what was once almost a one-man-run hanking empire stretching, directly and indirectly, from exchange houses and real estate to computer companies and supermarkets.

The decision to liquidate Petra Bank was announced by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) in a memorandum to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ). It disbanded a management committee appointed in August last year when it took over the financially troubled bank and named a new five-member panel as the liquidation committee headed by the CBJ, which was given full authority over all Petra Bank affairs until the liquidation process is completed in all its aspects.

The ESC, created after martial law was declared in Jordan in 1967, outlined a series of overriding laws and stipulations which in effect lifted the Petra Bank affair totally beyond the jurisdiction of the companies law and other related regula-

Legal experts said the measures applied and applicable in the liquidation process were clearly designed at eliminating any kind of hurdle in settling the affairs of the institution, which was once seen as the second largest commercial bank

In his capacity as the head of the isquidation process as named in the ESC decision, CBJ Governor Mohammad Saced Al Nabulsi Friday appointed a five-member committee to supervise the process. The five are: (President) Dr. Mohammad Saleh Hourani, a former senior official at the Ministry of Trade and Industry and head of the Cities and Villages Development Bank, (vice-president) Mr. Adoeb Tahboub, a senior CBJ official (members) Bassam Atari, General Manager of Petra Bank, Mamoun Farouga, a private sector auditor, and Fathi Hamed (a CBI legal

expert).
"The decision to dissolve Petra

Bank was inevitable," said Dr. Abdullah Malki, director-general of the Association of Jordanian Ranks. "It would have been the sooner the better since the bank had lost all its reputation and it was clear that there was no way m salvage it," Dr. Malki told the Jordan Times Friday.

Meanwhile, informed banking

circles said the Housing Bank would be able to begin its services to the Petra Bank accounts, transferred to it, only by the end of the month in view of the amount of paperwork and related procedures involved. The CBJ has made interim measures to make available funds to those who have pressing needs upon presentation of their deposit certificates issued by Petra Bank.

According to a reliable source, the total of Petra Bank deposits covered under the transfer is in the region of JD 130 million represent-

ing about 48,000 accounts.

The sources said the total deficit (the difference in assets and liabilities) of Petra Bank was put at between JD 252 million and JD 255 million by the auditors. "It is a conservative estimate," the sources said. "I believe that the actual deficit could be less by the time the

affairs of the bank are wound up."

The source noted that the figure included claims by external sources which are not guaranteed or met in the liquidation process since the bulk of them are from institutions either owned or controlled by the former chairman of Petra Bank, Ahmad Chalabi, who left the country in mysterious circumstances bank by the ESC. No accurate figure was immediately available on the external claims, but sources put it at between \$125 million to \$135

An indication of the CBJ's move m handle external claims on Petra Bank as well as its own external claims was seen in the exclusion from the transfer process of accounts of at least four foreign banking institutions: the Beirutbased Middle East Banking Company, the Geneva-based Scofi, the London-based Societic Commissionaire et Financiere and the Sudanese National Bank. At least two of the four, Middle East Banking Co. and Scofi, are believed to be owned and controlled by Chalabi and are cited by senior officials m have been deeply involved in funnelling money out of Jordan and in ne over the dinar.

The CBJ has pumped in more

Nabulsi said in a television interview last week. Most banking experts expected most of the esti-mated JD 150 million owed to Petra Bank to be either wholly collected or concrete measures to be made to collect them in the next three years, and this could partly recoup the funds extended by the CBJ. The ESC decision empowers the

liquidator to immediately call in all ms, overdrafts and credits extended by Petra Bank regardless of previous arrangements. However, it left the door open for new repayment arrangements to be worked out between the liquidator and the debtor subject to the decision of the

In the same vein, another banking expert said the duration for the sidation set by the ESC of two years but renewable as necessary

"In fact, the process could be completed in less than three years. in light of the powers granted to the liquidator by the ESC," said the

expert.
In the meantime, offers have been made to Petra Bank for the purchase of at least half a dozen of its branches, informed sources said. Informed soorces said the Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation, which opened a branch in Jordan earlier this year, has already bought the Shmeisani branch of Petra Bank. No figures were avail-

One of the main problems expected to figure high in the Petra Bank liquidation process is what is described as "proxy transactions" by banking circles. "The former management had used dozens of people, including family members, as a front to acquire controlling interest many commercial establish ments," said a banker. "Some of them are industrial units, others are supermarkets, and yet some others are commercial firms," he told the Jordan Times. "What the manage ment actually had was almost an empire with its fingers on almost every pie in town." The following are the series of

measures and stipulations related to the liquidation of Petra Bank outlined by the ESC: Regardless of the stipulations in the companies' law or any other

law or regulation: 1. The present Petra Bank manment committee is considered dissolved as from the date m be

(Continued on page 4)

Clashes, strike mark Tel Aviv

massacre

TEL AVIV (R) - Palestinians clashed with troops in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip Friday after prayer services commemorating two months since an Israeli gamman killed seven Arab workers in Israel. No one was injured during the disturbances, Palestinian sources said.

Transport ground to a halt in the occupied West Bank and the Strip and shops and businesses were closed as resi-dents locked themselves into their homes in a general strike, Palestinians said.
The Unified Leadership of

the Uprising, in its latest regu-iar leaflet, designated the 20th of every mouth as a day of general strike in honour of the seven gunned down while waiting for work near Tel Aviv

May 20.
"Soldiers are the only ones on the streets," said a Palestinian journalist in the West Bank city of Hebron.

In the Strip, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded four Palestinians during stone-throwing incidents in the Rafah refugee camp Thursday night, residents reported. A seven-year-old boy lost his

right eye after a teargus grenade struck him in the face in Burelj refugee camp, the Jerusalem-based Palestine Press Service reported. Local journalists said at least

34 people were heaten by sol-diers after clashes in various parts of the Gaza Strip.

Jordanian fears are genuine, expert tells U.S. Congress

WASHINGTON (Agencies) - Middle East, "what worries (Jor-Jordan has genuine concerns over the massive wave of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel since the issue has "implications for water resources and other things, and most certainly for the peace process," the American Congress was told Thursday.

"If we talk about a million immigrants, somebody is going to he pushed to move and inhabit or settle the West Bank," Paul Jureidini, of Abbot Associates in Springfield, Virginia, told a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee on Europe and the

While Jordan is not opposed per se, to Jewish immigration to Israel," said Jureidini, a re-spected scholar and expert on the positions of power." Israel," said Jureidini, a re-

dan) is immigration, vast scale immigration, leading to displacement of Palestinians from the West Bank, leading to Jordan becoming a Palestinian state."

Jureidini, describing Jordan as at "a crossroads" in light of the democratisation process in the Kingdom and its economic crisis coupled with the political de-velopments, paid tribute to Jor-"The record of Jordan speaks

for itself," he said. "I'm amazed, for instance, that none of the King's opponents, even those who tried coups, was ever put to death. They were allowed to leave the country and ultimately come back, were forgiven, and

general elections in Jordan as 'absolutely full, fair and free,' and said that the media in the Kingdom "is as free as you can have it."

Turning to the Middle East peace process, Jureidini said that there was a feeling of "disappointment, regret and anger" that the U.S. has "used Jordan when the ideological imperative was there, when it was the only moderate Arab country, and suddenly we have abandoned it; or we have attempted to push it towards policy objectives or policy goals that may be detrimental to Jordan, and that at this moment we basically are turning

Palestinian rights key to peace, U.S. Congress told, page 2

Exodus from W. Bank on the rise despite Jordanian moves

By Ahmad Khreishan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A total of 70,000 residents have failed to return to the occupied West Bank despite Jordanian regulations discouraging their extended stay here after the Kingdom's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied territory, according to Governor Mohammad Majed Al Adwan, head of the Ministry of Interior's Follow-up and Inspection Department.

Adwan said the figure represents 10 per cent of the population of the West Bank.

He said the department was embarking on the necessary steps to ensure the return of those Bank in line with the Jordanian entering the West Bank.

government's regulations, designed to safeguard the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and foil Israeli plans to evict Palestinians from the West Bank and settle Soviet Jewish immigrants there.

Adwan said that the department provides all facilities to the West Bankers on their arrival, stay and departure.

However, the concerned Jordanian authorities stipulate that West Bankers and Gazans should not use the Israeli airports when leaving the West Bank or Gaza in a bid to ban the immigration of these people from the occupied territories. He noted that the authorities ask them to use either the King Hussein or Prince Mohammad bridges on the people to the occupied West River Jordan upon leaving or

The Israeli authorities are also limiting the number of Palestinians going to the occupied territories across the hridge in violation of an agreement reached with the United Nations Truce

A spokesman for the Public Security Department (PSD) said that last week the Israelis reduced the number of visitors gradually, far below the quota agreed on with the comittee which is 1,500 persons per day across the Prince Mohammad Bridge on normal days and 800 on Fridays, and 2,500 persons per day across the King Hussein Bridge on normal days and 1,250 on Fridays.

The gradual reduction was felt last week and no reason was given by the Israeli authorities, the PSD official said.

U.S. postpones key

meeting with Israel

Palestinian rights are key to peace, experts tell American Congress

By Norma S. Holmes USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The "new reality" in the Middle East, is that Palestinians recognise that "Israel is not going away," a leading U.S. export on the Middle East told members of the U.S. Congress and suggested that they take note of this

"I think that it's a key change. I think we have to accept to some degree that when they say they want peace, with a state in the West Bank and Gaza, that is something to listen to," says Dr. Aladair Drysdale, a professor of Middle East studies at the University of New Hampshire.

He said the fact that Palestinians for so long did not recognise the legitimacy of Israel, that for 20 years the Palestinian issue seemed to be secondary to interstate conflict "does not make that recognition today something inauthentic, something false, something that we can't trust. The changes have occurred. I think we have to

take the risk." Drysdale said. Drysdale was one of a panel of three expert witnesses testifying on the Middle East at the fourth in an ongoing series of hearings on "The Middle East in the 1990's" conducted by the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

The July 17 hearing explored the political situation in Jordan, Iraq, and Syria; internal and external pressures that may be altering the foreign and domestic policies of these three countries; and the current status of. and future prospects for U.S. relations with each country.

With Drysdale on the panel of witnesses were anthor and scholar Paul Jureidini, of Abbot Associates in Springfield, Virginia, who testified on Jordan, and Dr. Phoebe Marr, a leading U.S. expert on Iraq.

Egypt-Syria link In his assessment of Syria in the 1990's, Drysdale underscored the significance of the new rapprochement between Egypt and Syria. "To have the two poles — the peace camp and the rejection camp — in effect, coming together — I think the implications of that are potentially extraordinary, although it's going to take some time before we know what all of

U.N. urges

in Cyprus

towards reconciliation.

locked.

reconciliation

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council has

implicitly criticised Turkey for

apparently encroaching upon the disputed town of Varosha on

Cyprus, and called upon Greek and Turkish Cypriots to work

Council President Razali Ismail

of Malaysia, in an emergency

meeting, read a statement in

which the 15 council members

urged both sides to use restraint at a time when the situation on

the divided island has deterio-

rated and peace talks are dead-

"The members of the council

again call on the parties con-

cerned to refrain, especially at

this sensitive stage in the process, from any action or statement that

could aggravate the situation,"

the statement said.

the consequences of that are." Noting that there have been intensive efforts under way for many months for a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq, Drysdale said that "one of Israel's big concerns, of course. is that that that reconciliation will take place. If Syria and Iraq come together, that will change the picture dramatically."

Representative Lawrence Smith (Democrat of Florida), exploring Syria's role in Lebanon, asked Drysdale about Syria's role in hostage taking.

"I think Syria does not have a controlling influence over the hostages in lebanon — I don't think Syria can release the hostages at will," Drysdale responded. But he noted that Syria has some influence with Iran, which through its proxies. could gain their release.

Asked about the prospects for Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, Drysdale said that 'Syria's long-term interest is not in staying in Lebanon. I don't think that, ultimately, Assad wants to be in Leba-

Drysdale also challenged an analogy drawn by Rep. Smith between Egypt and Syria in the peace process, noting that Sadat could sign a separate peace treaty for the Sinai; Assad is not going to do that for the Golan." he said the Golan Heights for Syria "is just a part of the puzzle. Equally important from their perspective, is

the future of the Palestinians." Asked by Smith what role the United States might play in bilateral talks between Israel and Syria, Drysdale said it is "unlikely that Syria will take up any invitation to talk bilaterally with Israel."

He said that Syria views the invitation of the Shamir government for direct talks on a settlement in Lebanon as "intended for an American audience" and "a way of distracting attention away from the Baker peace plan. They see it as dust in their eyes to detract attention."

He said Assad is convinced that only an international conference, convened under U.N. auspices by the five permanent mémbers of the Security Council and attended by all parties involved in the dispute, includ-ing the Palestinians, can bring

lasting peace to the region. Nevertheless, Drysdale noted. Assad did not try to undermine the Baker plan for

bringing the Palestinians and Israelis together for talks in Cairo. "He did not actively stand in the way of the Palestinians, possibly because he was convinced, correctly, that the plan would fail and that Shamir

would do his work for him." Drysdale added that the United States has informed Syria that it is not its intention to exclude Syria from the peace process and that "ultimately it wants progress toward peace on all fronts, including the Golan Heights."

Jureidini, in assessing Jordan's role in the 1990's said, "The Hashemite Kingdom is at a crossroads." The Kingdom remains militarily weak relative to all its neighbours, he said, and it is in a continuing econo-

mic crisis as well. What worries the Jordanians are the foreign policy, the external situation in the region. and their economic internal situation, he said, and "the unlimited emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union."

Jureidini said the issue of Soviet emigration to the occupied territories "has implications for water resources and other things, and certainly for the peace process: If we talk about a milion immigrants, somebody's going to be pushed to move and inhabit or settle the West Bank."

At the same time, he said, "the survival of Jordan depends on peace." Jureidini said the Hashemite Kingdom "has to make sure that it does not become the battlefield of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the tensions between Israel and Iraq, or the tensions between Iraq and Svria."

Asked by Rep. Mel Levine (Democrat of California) if His Majesty King Hussein, in his July 16 "Nightline" television programme interview, had not signalled that "he has now decided to become the point person on the issue of trying to keep Soviet Jews, not just out of the West Bank and Gaza. but out of Israel altogether," Jureidini said that "the King is not opposed, per se, to Jewish

immigration to Israel." "I think what worries him is." immigration - wast scale immigration - leading to resettlement in the West Bank, leading to displacement of Palestinians from the West Bank, leading to Jordan becoming a Palestinian

state," Jureidini said.

Asked by Hamilton to assess Jordan's present attitude toward the United States. Jureidini said that the feeling in Jordan is "more a disappointment, regret, anger" that the United States has "used Jordan when the ideological imperative was there, when it was the only moderate Arab country, and suddenly we have abandoned it; or we have attempted to push it towards policy objectives or policy goals that may be detrimental to Jordan, and that at this moment we basically are turning away."

Asked by Hamilton to assess the progress of democracy in Jordan, Jureidini said "the record of Jordan speaks for it-

"I'm always amazed, for instance, that none of the King's political opponents, even those who tried coups, were ever put to death. They were allowed to leave the country and ultimately came back, were forgiven. and even given rather impressive positions of power in the government," he said.

Jureidini said that from 1971 until very recently, Jordan had a state of martial law, "and yet it was one of the least oppressive martial-law situations ever seen anywhere in the Middle East for the Third World."

Asked if they had political prisoners, Jureidini said "To my knowledge, practically none." Jordan's recent elections were "absolutely full, fair and free," he said. The media in Jordan "is as free as you can have it," and political parties can now organise, he added.

In assessing U.S.-Jordanian relations and Jordan's role in the region, Jureidini said that Jordan is essential to peace in the Middle East - because the Jordanians want peace and have pursued it genuinely for over 20 years.

Since any instability in Jordan is going to affect its neighbours - whether Israel, Syria, Iraq or Saudi Arabia - Jurcidini suggested, as a first step, that the United States and other nations, "reassure Jorean about our interest in its security and take active steps to reinforce that assurance; 'aod,' two, that we participate actively in economic projects in Jordan that seem to deal with water resources, food, agriculture, and the like."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Man beheaded in S. Arabia for rape

NICOSIA (R) - Saudi Arabia Friday beheaded in public a man who robbed and raped two women, Radio Riyadh reported. It quoted an interior ministry statement as saying Abdullah Jaber al Odwani was caught last week when he attacked a third woman. Saudi Arabia has executed at least 17 people this year. It put to death nearly 100 in 1989, according to official announcements.

'Only Rabin can beat Shamir'

TEL AVIV (R) - Former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin is the only man who can lead Israel's Labour Party to victory over Likud Party Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, according to an opinion poll published Friday. The Dahaf Institute poll for the newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth was taken ahead of a Labour Party vote next Sunday on whether to let Rabin and other aspirants challenge the leadership of Shimon Peres. It found Rabin would win 42 per cent of support to Shamir's 39 per cent. In a race between Peres and Shamir, the Labour leader would get only 36 per cent compared with 44 per cent for Shamir. During five years as defence minister which ended in March, Rabin gained popularity because of his iron-fisted handling of the Palestinian uprising combined with an avowed desire to negotiate a solution.

Heatwave scorches UAE

ABU DHABI (R) - Hospitals-have treated 35 people for sunstroke as the United Arab Emirates (UAE) sweltered in the fiercest heatwave for five years. Health officials urged people to stay out of the sun after the temperature soured to 48 degrees Centigrade (118 Fahrenheit) Thursday. Weathermen said the heatwave in the mainly-desert Gulf state, one of the hottest regions on earth, would last another 24 hours. The temperature in July is normally about 40 degrees C (104 F.)

No punishment for 2 israeli officers

TEL AVIV (AP) - A senior army officer Friday overruled an investigating panel's recommendation on two of the eight officers blamed for a training accident that killed five soldiers. The investigation found widespread failures in backup systems designed to prevent accidents such as the one in which an artillery shell exploded among a group of reservists Tuesday. The blast also injured 10 soldiers. The investigation committee recommended eight officers be removed from their posts. But Uri Saguy, commander of army ground forces, said two of them would remain in their jobs since they were only following orders.

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Israel is the largest recipient of

stolen air force plane near the . the body of the reservist who stole the craft, the army said.

largest air, land and sea search in country's history, launched a week ago after the first theft of an Israeli air force plane.

air base in central Israel by a 33-year-old reservist pilot, Hagai was scheduled to fly on a routine A military communique said

Morry's body was found near the remains of the plane on the western slopes of the Golan Heights.

an annual meeting with Israeli representatives to review joint defence projects, stirring speculaon condition of anonymity. The tion the move was designed to

be held in September.

U.S. aid, getting \$3 billion

annually in military and economic

assistance. "We are not sending any signals," said the official, who spoke official said Israel had agreed to the U.S. suggestion that the talks

The talks, known as the joint Secretary of State James Baker has been pressing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to agree to peace talks with Palestinians in cials by complete surprise, said a the occupied West Bank and source who spoke on condition of Gaza Strip. But Shamir has resisted the pressure and Baker has in recent weeks displayed marked said the postponement was due to impatience.

> The postponement came as Israel's new defence minister, Moshe Arens, was scheduled to arrive in Washington for talks with Defence Secretary Dick Cheney Friday.

Wreckage of Israeli plane found on Golan Heights TEL AVIV (Agencies) - Sear- reserves, might have defected to

Syrian border Friday, along with

WASHINGTON (Agencies) —

The United States has postponed

prod Israel into accepting peace

security assistance programme,

were scheduled to be held in

Washington next week. The U.S.

postponement took Israeli offi-

A State Department official

the budget meetings under way

between the administration and

Congress, which he said have

created some uncertainty about

the amount of money that will be

available for foreign aid.

talks with Palestinians.

anonymity.

The discovery ended the crashing his plane. The plane was stolen from an

chers found the wreckage of a a neighbouring Arab country.

stolen air force plane near the But Avihu Bin Nun, the air force commander, told reporters Friday he believed Morry had intended to committ suicide by

> The aircraft was a West-German made twin-engine Dornier-28, a common type of reconnaissance plane.

Officials said earlier they believed Morry had personal problems. Newspapers said he had Morry, who made an unautho-rised take-off shortly before he and was not living with his wife. Morry, who was studying for a Ph.D. in physics, reportedly flew

over most of the country before disappearing. He "buzzed" his home in the northern city of Haifa and was last seen flying The theft had fuelled specula- north towards the Lebanon bortion that Morry, a captain in the der, newspapers said.

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15:49	Programme review
15:45	Children programme Educational programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News Summary
	Local programme
19:58	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
71:50	Programme review Local programme News in Arabic
23-00	News in Arabic
73-14	Arabic play
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PROGRAM	ME TWO

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MARKET PRICES

Cairo (MS

National Bloc wins GFJW elections

By Mariam M. Shahia Jordan Times Staff Reporter

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AMMAN — A nine-member alliance of pan Arab, leftist and independent women Friday swept the elections for the executive committee of the Amman chapter of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) dumbfounding all predictions for an Islamic Bloc control over the women'a federation.

The "national bloc" won all nine seats on the executive committee of the Amman federation defeating a seemingly strong Islamic Bloc and an independent candidate.

A record number of women turned up to vote in what was seen by observers as one of the 'most politicised" elections of the GFJW in its nine-year his-

Of the 238 representatives of 108 women societies, social institutions and clubs as well as individual members in the Amman Governorate, 228 went to the polls Friday.

The high voter turnout was seen by federation members and observers alike as a sign of increased politicisation.

"We had two elections today, one for the executive committee and another for the group that will represent Amman at the general conference in August. In both elections we had defined blocs representing various trends of the political and social spectrum. It was the first time that we had such clear-cut and defined differences," said a former member of the Amman executive com-

Haifa Al Bashir, the twotime president of the Amman executive committee and the national executive committee, called Friday's election "a victory for pluralism."

The elections today proved that women can organise themselves into effective blocs and achieve desired results. Today is a victory for all women in Jordan," Bashir told the Jordan Times.

Lutfieh Zmeili, head of the Islamic Bloc in the elections. said she had "no comment"

about the results of Friday's elections.

The election for the Amman delegation at the general conference was also won in a heated race by the National Bloc in its entirety.

As in the race for the executive committee, the election of the general congress delegation, which is made up of four separately elected members and the executive committee president, amounted to a race between two blocs and two independent candidates.

The four National Bloc candidates won the four seats assigned to the delegation. While the bloc took the seats in an overall landslide, the difference between the candidate receiving the least number of votes from the National Bloc (Rabab Nabulsi — 91 votes) and the most popular member of the Islamie Bloc (Lutfieh Zmeili - 90 votes) was one

"The race was very close because a certain number of women adhered totally to the blocs and others divided their votes between National Bloc members, Islamist Bloc members and the independent candidates," said a federation member involved in the counting of votes.

Friday's results, which spelled victory for a group of women who were described by federation officials as "relatively unknown" personalities, marked what women activists called "a landmark" in the federation's history.

"The total victory of the National Bloc marks a new stage in cooperation between pluralist women forces in the Kingdom," said a federation member affiliated with the Jordan People's Democratie Par-

While distinct differences were visible betwen the women in the National Bloc and women in the Islamic Bloc. observers say that an approximately 50 women were not strictly aligned to either bloc. An independent observer estimated that the number of women which "stuck" to either

bloc were very close in num-

ber. "About 90 women stuck consistently to the National Bloc while 86 consistently voted for the Islamic Bloc, she said. "These figures varied slightly in each of the two elections, but they are approx-

imately correct," she added. In what seems to have been a personal "feud" between the federation members representing the national line, two candidates, formerly affiliated with the National Bloc ran as independents.

National Bloc members said that a decision had been made by the majority of its members to present a list of women that represented different independent, pan-Arah and leftist views to make the bloc acceptable to the largest possible number of women.

"As a result, some very capable women were not on our list, but you can't include everyone, one always has to make concessions," said one candidate who won in the executive committee race.

While no exact figures are available, federation officials estimate that there are 6,000 members in the Amman branch of the federation.

The "real test" of bloc strength or political strength will be tested at the polls in August when the federation's eight municipal committees meet along with a still unknown number of independent members to elect the national executive committee of the federation.

Observers say that the ontcome of the elections in Angust will depend on the results of an ongoing two-month-old struggle between federation members and the Ministry of Social Development over the interpretation of article 12 of the federation's charter.

The former executive committee, which was dissolved by the ministry in May, is awaiting the results of legal charges filed against the Minister of Social Development on a case that: 1) the executive committee was released of its duties and replaced by a temporary nonelected committee illegally and 2) that the interpretation of

article 12 by the Ministry of Social Development (which outlines electoral distribution) is incorrect and allows for disproportional representation.

Anxiously awaiting the results of the conflict between the ministry and federation members, long time members believe that the decision will be detrimental to the federation's national orientation.

"If the interpretation stays as it is, the religious forces in the federation will be represented on a disproportional scale at the general conference and, as a result, on the national executive committee," said one federation member.

Representatives of the Islamic trend in the federation said that they felt the present interpretation was "fair" and had no further comments.

The results of Friday's election for the executive committee of the GFJW are as follows: Hiam Ahu Ghazaleh 134, Hind Faraj 133. Nuha Muaita 127, Haya Taher 122, Najah Kaialdeh 121, Haifa Jamai 119, Ramzieh Kheimer 115, Amal Salem 114, and Rihab Nazzal 113.

The nine members elected Hiam Abu Ghazaleh as president, Haifa Jamal as vicepresident, Haya Taher as secretary, and Rihah Nazzal as treasurer.

The results of the Islamie Bloc were: Fatmeh Farhan 100, Sawsan Keilani 97, Ismat Faruka 95, Leila Shamseddin 94, Suad Saqaa 93, Hajar Al Omari 91, Kifah Masri 91, Dina Hamdan 90, Huda Abul Haj 89.

Suad Obeidat, an independent candidate won 9 votes. The results of the vote for the Amman delegates for the general conference were: Janet Mufti 106, Safa Qassus 104, Snheila Bahlawan 97, and

Rabab Nabulsi 91. The results for the Islamie Bloc were: Lutfieh Zmeili 90, Fatmeh Farhan 87, Fadwa Abu Gheida 86, Lina Kannash 81.

Independent candidates Sahira Nabulsi and Naila Rashdan received 47 and 43 votes respectively.

ACC countries to boost trade

AMMAN (Petra) - Ministers responsible for economy, trade, and supply in the four-member Arah Cooperation Council (ACC) countries ended a fourday meeting in Amman on Thursday by agreeing to prepare lists of 34 national products to be totally exempted from customs duty and other fees when traded within the ACC countries.

The ministers, representing Jordan, Iraq, Yemen and Egypt, said they would set up a special committee to follow up the implementation of the agreement.

A statement at the end of the meeting here said that the four ministers would set up a team of experts to prepare a working paper designed to boost trade activities among the four-member states and decided to exempt the products of their countries from any fees for their participation in international trade fairs held in any of the ACC group.

In a move to boost trade, the four ministers studied the prospect of allowing each member country to sell national products worth up to \$5 million during trade fairs and to exempt them from paying any fees.

Lower House hears government's reply to criticism on unemployment

AMMAN (J.T.) - The Lower country are responsible." House of Parliament convenes today to hear the government's reply to charges and proposals by that the country needs a leaddeputies over the issue of unemployment. Minister of Labour Qaseem Obeidat is expected to deliver a speech to the chamber in which he will outline the government's thinking and steps on solving the problem.

The House beld its third and last session to discuss unemployment on Wednesday evening. The first session was held on June 27, during which Obeidat reported to the House on the

Obeidat's statement came under attack by many deputies for failing to reduce unemploy-

ment, and then solve the problem

government's policy towards the

completely.
During Wednesday's session, deputy Leith Shbeilat said he saw no solution in merely levelling accusations against the government's asking it to quit or calling for the formation of a new gov-

"It has become clear that the forces of change have so far failed to make the necessary adjustment in the wrong policy of the reg-ime," he said. "Instead, the forces of change have turned into the higgest supporter of the pre-

valent order. Shbeilat said that unemployment was only a phenomenon of a deeper crisis that hit the country

ership that not only occupies seats but people's hearts. Shbeilat said that Jordan needs

a "virtuous leadership that nurses the centres of reform and not the centres of comunition." He said that Jordanians have

into recreational country houses" where they enjoy themselves af- the influx of guest workers. ter a week of corrupting people's affairs and interests and where employment, reducing the cost of they keep a class of people below agricultural products through cusall classes," referring to farm- tom incentives, the creamon of hands who are mainly Egyptian.

Why should the Islamists sit with the anthority that deprived people of many of their rights?" Islamist deputy for Amman. "What did the executive au-

thority give to the people for the ment in the Kingdom. people's deputies to negotiate with?" he asked. Why give the regime the legi-

timacy it seeks without concessions for the people?" Also addressing the House was

Mnslim Brotherhood deputy Yousef Khasawneh (Irbid). He hlamed the country's economic crisis, that led to unemployment, on people's lack of loyalty to the country.

limitations that put an end to their ambitions," be charged. Khasawneh said he believed and for which "the leaders of the the private sector should have abroad.

been allowed to prosper. "This "The country is living a lead- cannot be achieved through ership vacuum," he said, adding enacting laws and regulations, but through restructuring the system and choosing the right loyal people (for the right places)." Deputy Ziad Abu Mahfouz (in-

denendent Islamist, Zarqa) blamed anemployment on corruption, mismanagement, nepotism bribery, sacking of employees turned their agricultural lands for security reasons, the increased number of graduates and

> He proposed for tackling unagricultural villages in the desert, distribution of state land and

encouraging livestock breeding. He also called on the governaskd Shbeilat, an independent ment to work on regaining Jordanian expatriates' confidence in order to encourage their invest-

Deputy Atef Broush (Islamist. Karak) called on all parties to the economic process to each shoulder its responsibility in solving the problem. He called for a national conference on economy

and unemployment. Broush also called for a numher of measures that included reopening money-exchanger shops, facilitating the conditions for issuing drivers' licences, dis-"Many people in this country tributing state land, retiring all suffered from restrictions and employees with more than 25 vears of service and allowing government employees to take leave without pay while employed

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

- **EXHIBITIONS** * Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosential (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- * Plastic art exhibition by Rudaina and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- * Exhibition of paintings by ten Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery - tel. No. 699914.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- * Concerts by the Jordan Armed Forces Band (6:00 7:00 p.m.), a local folk troupe (7:00 - 8:00) and a Yemeni folk troupe (8:30 -9:30 p.m.) at the Forum.
- * Poets and poetry at Artemis Steps (7:00 9:00 p.m.) * Concerts by Jordan National Folklore Troupe (7:30 - 9:00) and Yarmonk troupe for Arabic music (9:30 - 11:00) at the South

Jordan, Syria work on unifying construction rules AMMAN (Petra) - A housing units, set up a specialised

designed to boost the two counthe environment. tries' cooperation and pave the way for joint ventures.

to the problem of random con- planning in this respect. struction work around the cities and towns of Syria and Jordan the two sides, according to

find cheap methods for building maintenance.

Jordanian-Syrian committee on committee to study the needs of public works and housing ended a poor districts, exchange expertise four-day meeting in Amman by and information related to conissuing a set of recommendations struction work and housing and

Hiyasat said that the committee would jointly consider legisla-Housing Corporation Director tions related to the construction Yousef Hiyasat, who signed the sector in Syria and Jordan with a minutes of the meetings with view to reaching consensus on 'Irfan Baradai, the Syrian deputy unified sets of regulations. It minister for housing, said in a would exchange information restatement that the joint commit-lated to designs of roads linking tee decided to direct its attention Syria with Jordan and future

Other questions discussed by and find a way to deal with it. Hiyasat, included specifications He said that the committee and standards for road construcwould embark on a joint effort to tion work, traffie lights and

CBJ chief details violations leading to Petra Bank failure

AMMAN (Petra) — The prime responsibility for the crisis that led to the liquidation of the Petra Bank lies with the bank management and nearly 80 per cent of this responsibility lies squarely on the bank's general manager himself, according to Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saced Nabulsi.

Investigations revealed that the bank's board of directors was totally unaware of the bank's deteriorating conditions and did not follow up the numerous violations," Nabulsi said in a television interview Wednesday even-,

"Bank officials, who had to implement orders given by the management in violation of the laws, will also be asked to account for their action in the court of law which will define each person's responsibility," he

Nabulsi said that the majority of the employees could not be held responsible for the deteriorating situation because they were not aware of what was happening and transactions did

not enter any books. Nabelsi pointed out that investigations revealed that most of the 650 employees cannot be held responsible simply because they were not aware of the major violations of the law on control of

currency regulations. He said that bank auditors played a major role in causing the crisis and the CBJ has solid proof that the auditors' report about the client's funds over the past

three years did not reflect the

in the bank. Nabulsi said that the CBJ had to delay taking action with regard to Petra Bank simply because the Kingdom was over the past months going through critical and dangerous economie circumstances, the dinar's exchange rates lacked stability and the monetary crisis was at its peak.

Before taking the final decision to liquidate the bank, the CBJ had to follow certain procedures to end all issues related to Petra Bank, realise the depth of the problem even though the CBJ had very strong evidence about the fraudulent actions and violations committed by the bank

Nabulsi said that the monetary crisis in Jordan in the past year was responsible for flushing out Petra Bank's mismanagement and fraudulent actions because the bank failed to supply the CBJ with the required amount of

monetary reserves. These, according to law, amount to 35 per cent of any bank's capital reserves.

According to Nabulsi, Petra Bank failed to sapply the amounts because its coffers were empty although, according to its statements, it possessed JD 160 million in foreign currency. Nabulsi described the recent

measures taken by the National Economic Security Committee as tantamount to declaring Petra Bank bankrupt, but "the committee also decided to take mea-

sures to safeguard the rights of reality and the genuine accounts the clients and account holders

and depositors." "One has to bear in mind the major and speedy action taken by the CBJ which provided the liquidity," he said.

The CBJ had to take a decision after considering informa-tion provided in the auditors' reports about the bank's assets and liabilities, which exceed JD 200 million, and to halance this against the amounts which the CBJ can safely provide for the

liquidity," the CBJ chief said. He said that the CBJ provided more than JD 200 million in cash in order to provide protection to the client's rights and to safeguard the Jordanian banking system's credibility.

He said that the Jordan Gulf Bank has a deficit of JD 27 million, but the nature of its problem is different from that of Petra Bank because it stems from mismanagement and delay in taking proper actions when needed while Petra Bank's collapse came as a direct result of criminal actions and illegal proceedings combined with poor manage-

"It will be possible to deal with the Jordan Gulf Bank by restructuring its capital and by applying what is called refloating of the bank after proper measures had been taken to prepare for this step," Nabulsi pointed out. Nabulsi said that the Jordan

beginning due largely to organisa-tional issues and failure to abide by the original agreement which brought this bank into being.

"The CBJ will think of a proper measure to handle this problem and could resort to liquidating the bank and restructuring it in a manner that would exclude any Syrian participation," he

rised by weakness from the very

Nabulsi also talked about the Jordanian branch of the Lebanese-based Mashrek Bank.

He said that this bank had been encountering major difficulties and its case is being handled by the Central Bank of Lebanon; its branches in the Arab World are

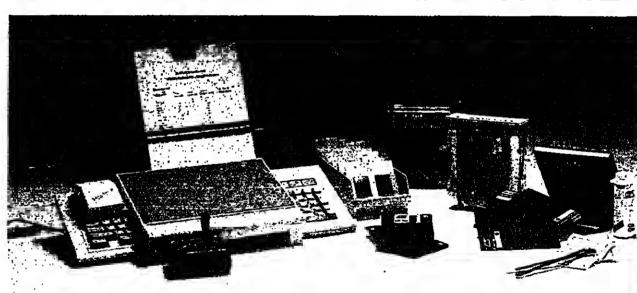
being liquidating. In Jordan the situation is different because the CBJ has discovered that the bank's losses do not justify liquidation and therefore the problem can be contained and overcome.

Asked about the fate of the Petra Bank's employees, who are now facing a grim future, be said that the CBJ seeks to provide protection to these employees and is seeking to employ most of

them in other banks. The CBJ will also try to solve the problem by creating a new bank for exports and investments which will also absorb some of these employees.

Nabulsi praised the new "com-panies' law" in Jordan which was responsible for charging the Petra Bank board with the responsibil-Syrian Bank is a small bank ity for its collapse. whose operations were characte-

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Jordan Times

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Hands off, America

THE dispute between Iraq and its Arab neighbours, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), is an internal Arab issue. Both Iraq and Kuwait have presented their cases to the Arab League. Iraq said it hoped the next Arab summit in Cairo in September would discuss its border dispute with Kuwait. Kuwait on its part asked the Arab League to form a committee to investigate the border issue between the two countries. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is responsible for settling the three countries' dispute of oil quota issues. Jordan, aware of the dangers of such disputes on Arab security, has already indicated its willingness to mediate between the three countries. Saudi Arabia has already involved itself in repairing the rupture, as other Arab countries have also offered their good offices to cool tempers and find a solution to the dispute between the three sister states.

Meanwhile, the U.S. says it "remains strongly committed to supporting the individual and collective self-defence of our friends in the Gulf with whom we have deep and longstanding ties." One wonders who the Americans mean by their "friends." The peoples of this region, especially the Arabs, have on so many occasions demonstrated that they consider the U.S. policy towards the Arab World as unfriendly if not outright hostile.

In fact the Arabs and Muslims, among many others, know very well that the U.S. was behind the policy that led in the 1980s to the decline in oil prices that ultimately led to the near collapse of many countries' economies and people's standards of living. Arabs remember very well that it was Ronald Reagan who vowed in his early days as U.S. president to bring OPEC down to its knees. If anything the U.S. is one of the main culprits behind the present dispute.

In view of the latest developments Iraq, Kuwait, the UAE and the rest of the OPEC members now seem to be fully committed to the oil output quota set by the organisation in order to boost prices and improve their peoples' quality of life. The West, led by America, cannot continue to enjoy the spoils of reduced oil prices at the expense of OPEC oil producers, the Arabs and the Third World.

Nobody denies that the West has interests in the region. That is only guarantee of the continued flow of ou to th industrialised world. There is no Soviet threat anymore. The responsibility of keeping the oil flowing is the producers' responsibility. Arab oil is an Arab commodity and the Arabs must use this vital resource in the best of their interest. OPEC is only applying the American-advocated market forces of supply and demand.

Any dispute among the Arabs over quota and shares or any other dispute over borders or rights is purely Arab and should only be solved by the Arabs themselves. The Arabs will not tolerate America's meddling in their internal affairs anymore nor will they forgive anyone among them who seeks American "friendliness" and help at the expense of

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The current dispute between Iraq and Kuwait concerning oil production and prices should remain an inter-Arab affair; and no external power should be allowed to interfere, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday. Referring to a U.S. statement that Washington is ready to extend assistance to its friends in the Gulf, the paper said that the U.S. administrate with trying its find a foothold in the Guif region in a bid to draw a wedge witheen Iraq on the one hand and the Gulf states on the other. The U.S. stand, and Washington's decision to get further clarification from the Iraqi government over the issue is seen as a clear move to help pave the way for itself to deepen differences among Arab countries at a time when the Arabs are facing Israel's aggressive moves, said that paper. This suspect American move should prompt the Arab states to stand together and defuse the Iraqi-Kuwait row over oil, the paper urged. It said that Washington should understand that the Arabs do not wish to see foreign elements interfering in their own affairs, and that Iraq would not stand alone should the United States launch an aggression in the Gulf. The paper voiced optimism over the current diplomatic efforts through the Arab League to defuse tension in the Gulf, and paid tribute to the mediators who are trying to contain the differences that emerged between brothers.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily calls on the employees of the now liquidated Petra Bank to start looking for jobs in Jordan and abroad since the prospects of finding work for all of them at other banks here seem to be grim. Fahed Al Fanck says that the Housing Bank which took over the assets and liabilities of the defunct bank, can absorb 100 of the Petra Bank employees to help beef up its staff and deal with the new situation. Another bank to be created in Jordan under the name of the Bank of Investment and Export Financing can also absorb no less than 100 others while the other banks in the country can probably absorb 150 to 200 of the rest, because the absence of the Petra Bank would mean extra work for the remaining banks in the country, hence justifying the employment of more staff, says the writer. On the whole, he concludes, only two thirds of the dismissed employees could have a new chance to work in banks in the Kingdom, and the rest must find employment somewhere else. Therefore, he adds, the only choice left for the Petra Bank employees is to start looking for new jobs now if they do not want to join the 100,000 strong army of unemployed people in the country.

Al Dustour daily called on the Arab leaderships to contain the Iraci-Kuwaiti crisis, and to prevent any development that could disturb inter-Arab relations. Foreign elements and Israel are clearly trying to "pour fuel on the fire" and to cause dissension and deepen differences in the Arab World through unhealthy interference in the crisis, said the paper.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

'The symptom of fundamentalism'

IN my last article on fundamentalism I emphasised that ours is an age of uncertainty and alienation throughout the world: So why then should we be different. Just observe the confusion that continues to sweep across the Western culture to realise that we are not alone in our plight: The rising crime rate, the decaying inner cities, the decaying values, the drugs, the shattering of family relationships...etc! Western culture is also in a period of agonising transition groping for a firm foothold, something

It is not the fact that we are in a transitional stage that causes trouble. In fact it is the sign of a dynamic and rich culture that is constantly reacting within itself and with outside forces in search of new formulas and new patterns. The intensity of the debate and reaction is in proportion to the depth of the crisis at the time. And we, in the Arab

World, in the world of Islam,

are undergoing a tremendous crisis of civilisation in which everything we deem valuable, sacred or familiar is in question and under scrutiny. What worries me then is not that we are in the grips of this crisis, but the response; our response to

Are we responding in a manner that allows us to take hold of our life or one we merely lashing out in reaction? To be sure we need not apologise for our anger and frustration when considering our relationship with the West. Our xenophobia, in this context is, or at least should be, understandable in view of the very unjust way in which we have been treated by the West.

The more important, indeed the more vital issues to our life. are those that deal with the inner dynamics of our own self, our own culture from within. Are we merely reacting or are we electically and soundly and also rationally acting in response to the challenges facing

C. Any objections should be hand-led as fast as possible by the liquida-

tor and the latter's decision is open

for appeal at the appeals court in

front of a single judge. The judge's decision can be appealed at the cassa-

tion court. Any such case should be handled with utmost speed.

a final register which includes all Petra Bank assets as well as its de-btors and creditors including those

who have lost their right of objection

and those who fall under a final court

13. A. The liquidator has to presen

us. It is here that we should look for the signs that can tell ·us whether we are, or not on the night track.

The rise of fundamentalism and the fundamentalist sentiment is surely a symptom, not the cause of the agonising rebirth that our societies are undergoing. And while the debate at times seems irrational and noisy we should keep in mind that what is at stake is an entire way of life that is disappearing or that bas already disappeared and the emergence of a new way in the coming. Is the debate concerning these issues of life and death more rational in the West?, the East?, on elswehre? Is life in the West for the ordinary citizen more secure, more stable or qualitatively — not simply quantita-tively — better.

The camel, the horse, the tribe, the old clan, the old pattern of life has almost completely disappeared. This hap-

pened not over the passage of three or four centuries as is the case with the West but practically overnight, in one generation. I still recall the conditions of our countryside in the late 1940's and early fifties when I was still in high school. As one left Amman, near the Desert Patrol headquarters on the edge of todays Wihdat, and headed south towards the town of Madaba hardly any stone or cement houses existed in-between. Most people lived either in mud and stone adobes or in Buyut Shair, goat hair

Things have changed and with them an entire way of life gone and perhaps forever. What replaces the old clan, the extended family, the tribe? Has anything replaced it? Are our governments in the Arab World providing adequate answers and alternatives for the bewildering traumas that beset our lives? But then why should they? Governments are.

to leave North Africa by the

velopments that our world today

is experiencing, and the chal-

lenges and dangers and even

threats they bring... only push us

to be more convinced of the need

million people, fear a unified

European Community (EC) will

curtail employment of North

African immigrants and redirect

investment towards newly emerg-

ing democracies of Eastern

Gbozali said the ministers

for integration," he said.

The transformations and de-

wayside.

tents for the bedouins.

after all, made from the same cloth of the same people; just as confused and just as bewildered. Their major mistake has been their timidity, sometimes cowardice in facing certain issues, that caused them to be led rather than being the leader. Few of the major issues that face us in our life have been given adequate answers by our governments. These seem to think that if you ignore the problem long enough, it will go away. We need answers, at least a reasonable debate over the major issues that deal with our societies: Issues like those of political legitimacy and the decision-making process. The question of private versus public morality and the place of religion in our lives. We need answers pertaining to the very fabric of our moral and intellectual makeup. What of the issue of the population explosion? Can Egypt go on for ever, for instance, to increase its population by one million every nine months?

What of the distribution of wealth not only on the regional Arab level, but within each country of the region? Can the disparities that now exist contime forever? Can we continue to maintain an insensitive conspicuously and wastefully consuming spoiled class regionally as well as within each country forever?

By Kamel S.Abu Jaher

These and similar important questions remain in search of answers. Thus far our governments, as confused as the masses, have not provided answers. Instead, they allowed themselves irresponsibly to be led by mass sentiment, sometimes mass hysteria rather than attempt answers or allow some to come out.

Again the problem is not fundamentalism, for it is only a symptom; the problem still lies in our inability to provide rational answers that can attempt to reconcile faith with reason, past with present, and modernity with traditionalism.

Petra Bank liquidation

(Continued from page 1)

fixed by the board of directors of the Central Bank of Jordan.

Petra Bank will be liquidated according to the rules dictated by this decision, and the liquidation measures will be effective from Saturday,

3. The Central Bank of Jordan, represented by its governor, will be in charge of the liquidation process and can, for this purpose, appoint one person or more as deemed fit. The appointee or appointees will be paid for their services from Petra Bank assets. Moreover, the liquidator can, at anytime, dismiss any person appointed for liquidation purposes and appoint one or more persons to exercise any of the liquidator's au-thorities or any of its duties and assign signatory powers according to the arrangements made by the liquidator.

it has the authority to freeze, block, seize or hypothecate any amount due to Petra Bank whether the money belongs to the debtor or to any other

The liquidator's decision in this regard is as legally vaild as any court decision and any hypothecation made by the liquidator in the process cannot be lifted without the agreement of

B. No action relating to the confiscated property or blocked deposits in favour of Petra Bank can be taken without the liquidator's written agree-

5. All transactions which involve Petra Bank or the Equidator are exempt from all kinds of taxes and fees, including taxes and fees on the ownership of real estate, shares and vehicles and also on transferring the ownership to others as well as hypothecations and cancellation of loans as of the liquidation date until

the end of the process.

6. All Petra Bank assets and funds are placed at the disposal of the liquidator, who has the authority to order any person to pay any amount or deliver any records or statements belonging to the bank.

B. Any person including government departments and companies should provide the liquidator with all relevant information, including details of the debtor's personal proper-

ty, shares or partnership.
7. No cases can be brought against the bankruptcy of Petra Bank.
8. The liquidator has the right to

immediately call in all loans, credits and overdrafts extended by the bank to a party regardless of any prearranged timings.

B. The liquidator could upon the request of the debtor extend a tenure

of a loan after agreement with the

9. Petra Bank stops functioning except for liquidation purposes and for a time seen suitable by the liquida-

tor who should pay for all expenses required during liquidation.

10. Upon the request of the liquidator, no court cases against or for Petra Bank or the liquidator can be filed in courts or any related departments.

11. Petra Bank stops paying interests or commissions for its credi-tors starting with the date of im-plementing liquidation.

12. A. The liquidator has to prepare a preliminary register to he taken from Petra Bank registers or any other official or unofficial regis-ters which it sees beneficial. The register should include names of creditors and debtors and amount of their claims and other Petra Bank assets, including assets of creditors and debtors whose cases have been frozen, according to article number 10. Every creditor or debtor whose name is listed in the register will be informed of his claims by registered mail to be sent at his address according to Petra Bank records or through publishing the name in the official gazette or a local daily newspaper.

B. Any creditor or debtor who objects to any claims has the right to submit his objection to the liquidator in a period that does not exceed 30 days after being informed of clair Otherwise, he losses his right to object. The objection has to be clear, tified and accompanied by supporALGIERS (R) - Algerian Fore-

The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) summit Sunday, the second since the five-member gronping was established in February 1989, will focus on economic integration but is also expected to discuss rising Muslim

In a speech to his counterparts from Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania, meeting to pre-pare for the summit, Ghozali referred indirectly to sweeping

order as stipulated in the previous article. The register should include the amounts of credits or debits. B. The liquidator approves the register in its final shape and informs the creditor or debtor with the final report or publishes it in the official newspaper or one of the daily newspapers. The rights of Petra Bank and its debts are to be liquidated according to the final report after it is approved by the liquidator. The li-quidator's approval of the final report is considered an absolute legal decision that cannot be appealed.

C. Interests and commissions on Petra Bank debtors remain effective until the final date of payment or when the final liquidation is made public according to article 18 of this decision.

14. A. The liquidator can take: decision it sees fit to liquidate the rights and commitments of Petra Bank as shown in the final report. including obtaining the personal rights of the bank's debts, including the transfer of these debts to any other party named by the liquidator. This decision includes the right of the liquidator to sell these rights or any part of them. The liquidator can also settle debts with debtors according to what it sees fit. The liquidator can also sell any tangible Petra Bank assets or any part of them. B. When a Petra Bank client's right

is transferred from the liquidator to a third party, there is no need for the approval of the debtor, and in this case the right is transferred to the third party which has the same rights as the transferer/ Petra Bank or the liquidator/ in dealing with the debtor.

15. A. The liquidator has the right to sell any of Petra Bank's tangible assets such as real estate, cars, furniture and other properties. It also has the right to sell any assets of Petra

- Through public auction and according to the measures it sees fit without abiding by public auction measures cited in laws and regulations in effect. Or according to a special evalua-

tion undertaken by a committee comprised of a judge named by the minister of justice and of two experts named by the liquidator. The committee issues its decision of evaluation either unanimously or by majority.

B. The liquidator has the right at anytime to choose any other method er than the above mentioned ways

16. The liquidator can resort to court at anytime as a plaintiff.

17. The liquidator has to repay Petra Bank debts according to the following sequence and priorities:

i) Petra Bank employees' debts

sulting from their work in the bank;
ii) Public treasury debts including debts of the Central Bank; iii) Municipalities debts:

iv) Rents of real estate rented to v) What is left of the assets is to be ributed between creditors equally.

B. The liquidator can start paying the debts according to their priorities during the liquidation process and depending on the liquidity he can obtain from Petra Bank assets. 18. The liquidator has to liquidate Petra Bank within two years which can be renewed for one or more times according to a Central Bank decision. Petra Bank company would be de-clared dissolved once the liquidator

19. The board of directors of the Central Bank is hereby empowered to take any decision it sees fit to resolve. any problem related to Petra Bank that has not been treated in the articles of this decizion.

announces the process in the official

Economy is focus at Maghreb would review draft accords on

ign Minister Sid Ahmad Ghozali, speaking ahead of a North African summit, called Friday for Maghreb integration to meet the challenge of European unity.

fundamentalism at home.

Ministry of Justice. The source summed up the findings of probes into the nine cases initiated by the House: Swaqa, Abn Nseir and the Al Jafr highway and King Talal Dam projects have found that

- Charges could not be roved that a sale of a part of

the Jbeiha Amusement Park project were found lacking in substance. "The project was awarded to the lowest bidder, who also offered financing and management arrangements for

- Investigations and testi-

and the free movement of people and goods. Hit by economic crises, foreign debt, stagnant or falling exports and increased dependence on imported food, the Maghreb states

see integration as a means of

spurring economies and finding The five states, linking some 65 jobs for fast-growing populations. Not on the agenda, but almost certain to be discussed in summit corridors, is the rise of fundamentalist groups. One swept to victory in the first free elections on the local level in Algeria last

The triumph of the Islamic

Salvation Front (FIS) has emboldened fundamentalists in neighfood security, economic activities bouring Morocco and Tunisia.

An Algerian Foreign Ministry official said internal Algerian developments were not on the agenda but "we were ready to explain our reforms."

Algeria broke ranks with Maghreb partners last year by legalising the FIS as part of sweeping moves toward a multiparty democracy that is one of the region's freest.

With parliamentary elections that could bring the FIS to power widely expected next year, neighbours are anxiously watching developments.

ower House to study

(Continued from page 1)

- Investigations into the these involve "ministers";

gold reserves of the Central Bank of Jordan in 1989 were unprocedural. The concerned officials were using an "emergency power" granted to them under the law, and the transaction has been "properly recorded and accounted for";

- Charges of possible corruption and bribery in awarding

the park," said the source. "There is no evidence of any bribery or corruption."

monies taken from several key witnesses failed to prove allegations of "high-level tamperings" with government laboratory test results on foodstuffs. The charge was that test result reports certifying certain items of foodstuff as "unfit for human consumption" were replaced with forged "fit-for-humanconsumption" certificates and the items were allowed to be sold to the public.

- It has been found that there are "grounds for charges" that "personal interests" were behind a government decision to release a payment of JD 4 million to a foreign company 14 years after a court ordered the

of JD 2 million and the rest in government to do so. Results of inquiries and testimonies are instalments.

— Indictments have already not clear yet whether "there is a been made and trials are concase which will stand up in tinning of cases where "violacourt," according to the source. nions have been found of all procedural norms and practices The affair involves the Hijaz. Railway Corporation, which was ordered by an artibration of awarding Ministry of Supply tenders and waiving penalties court in 1973 to pay JD 4 for defaulting contractors." million to the foreign company

which had undertaken a project

guarantee for JD 4 million to

the company — to settle the

issue for an immediate payment

for the corporation. already indicted on a previous Arguing that the project had equal Jordanian, Saudi Arabian case related to a contract to supply rice to Jordan through and Syrian participation and the Ministry of Supply, is the key defendant in the case. therefore the Kingdom should The official, who was on a JD not be asked to shoulder the entire burden alone, the gov-250,000 bail in the first case, ernment at the time and all "was rearrested and charged on subsequent cabinets refused to make the payment. In 1987, an agreement was reached in conjunction with a local bank which had originally furnished a

August.

several new counts before being released on another JD 1,000 bail," said a source.

The prosecution has rested its case and made its final argument in the first case, and the

verdict is expected in mid-

A former officiels, who was

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp







Peanuts





Foreigners make music on the streets of Tokyo

By Tom Minchart The Associated Press

TOKYO - A hundred Japanese oblivious to the giant flashing video screens around Shibuya quare listen intently as Hank Hirsh's alto saxophone dances around "the sunny side of the

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23.3 90c === isi az i والمتاع Afterwards, spectators approach shyly and drop 1,000-yen (\$6.78) bills into his open case. Hirsh bows, thanks them in Japanese and launches into a jazzy "autumn leaves" with bassist Fukuro Kazuya.

"Down on the street, I make the same money I'd make in a regular gig, but it's much more fun," said-Hirsh, 39, originally from Chicago but now living in Kyoto. "I'm communicating with people... The people who like it

Firsh, who also plays in night- street in the Shinjuku entertain- for money. Dozens of rock bands clubs and teaches saxophone in Kyoto, later said he split 340,000 yen (\$2,270) with his bassist for

six days on the streets of Tokyo. He is one of hundreds of Western musicians, performance artists, jugglers, mimes, puppetcers and street merchants drawn to Japan's largest city by its generous tippers and relatively safe

There are risks, including gangsters demanding payoffs from per-formers on their turf, and an occasional belligerent drunk. Competing Western performers sometimes inform on each other, although the police generally leave them alone if they don't create a disturbance.

"But in Japan, there is a certain respect for the body," said David Findlay of Vancouver, Canada, a mime playing on a

ment area. "There's no way I'd do this in Canada - they'd treat me too badly,"

Findlay, in whiteface, had a sign saying: "I am a pantomime. Please use your hands to move me freely." Giggling teen-age girls moved his arms and legs into funny positions. Others whooped in delight when he pointed at them, silently inviting them to manipulate him.

"He is very tough," said one admiring Japanese man. "We cannot do this."

Findlay, 36, said foreigners "can make incredibly good money in Japan if they're any good. It's the fact that yoo're a foreigner. If a Japanese were doing it, they'd get a different

Japanese do perform on Tokyo's atreets, but usually not

play side-by-side on a crowded street near Yoyogi park, and teco-agers in greased-back hair, black leather and sunglasses dance to 1950s music on boom boxes. Saxophonists, trombonists and conga players practise jazz riffs and rhythms under bridges and io parks, but most seem to be playing for the sheer joy of it.

Some street Westerners are applementing their incomes as English teachers; others are gathering money to continue travels around the world.

Many live in rooming houses \$400 a month, inhabited by other denizens of the low-end Western subculture in Japan. These inclade teachers, writers, drifters, occasional smugglers and scores of North American and European women who work as night-

club hostesses, earning 3,000 year (\$20) an hour to pour drinks and talk sweetly to businessmen. Street Westerners sell every-

thing from jewellery and massproduced oil paintings to battery powered panda bears. "I tell people I'm an art student and I painted these in Paris, these

in Hawaii," said a young Canadian woman selling pictures of borses, landscapes and seascapes in Shinjuku. She declined to give her name. "The real sad thing is I have a degree in art history." lo the fashionable shopping

area of Harajuku, freelance jourthat cost the equivalent of about nalist Bill Balfour of Sbeffield, England, was selling Soviet army watches, pins and patches he bought during a recent reporting trip to Sakhalin.

He was dressed in a Soviet army uniform, and his pitch was, "excuse me, sir, do you know

People admired the watches, but Balfour acknowledged the fad had not caught on.

The street is turf to the Japanese underworld, known as akuza, and Westerners say the Yakuza demand between 3,000 yen (\$20) and 10,000 yeo (\$66) per week, depending on the area. "It's worth it to pay the mafia," Findlay said. "If someone (a competing performer) is in my patch, I don't have to do anything about it."

But other performers say the Yakuza have pushed them around, kicked their instruments, even thrown firecrackers in an effort to get their payoff.

Grego, a one-man band and pappeteer from Northern California who asked that his last name not be used because he doesn't have a legal working permit, said one Yakuza who was refused payment called in the

"The cops said, 'we're sorry, but please go home, you can come back (to perform) later," said Grego. "The Japanese spectators stood back and watched.... but everyone cheered when the Yakuza left. They love seeing us buck the Yakuza, but they can't stick their necks out."

Findlay said he was performing in Shinjuku one night when a very large Japanese man rammed me.

"Another guy stood up for me, but the big guy slammed him into a shop door," he said. "The crowd attacked the big guy, pum-meled him, kicked him in the head... afterwards people shook my hand."

A spokesman for the metropolitan police said people who block pedestrians or traffic face a maximum penalty of three months in jail or a 50,000-yen (\$333) fine. He said performers have to get advance permission from local police, although police "normally allow festivals." No licence for performing is necessary.

Hirsh said a bagpipe player in Ueno park ooce accused Hirsh of taking his place and brought in the police.

"About 500 people were waiting for us to play," he said. "This one radical guy got the people together and they were booing the police. It was a powerful thing was amazed to see it in

We played one tune, took in 1,500 yen (\$10) and the police escorted us to the train.

Social welfare work — a cornerstone for the poor

By Sahar Qaracen Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In this phase of ever increasing economic burdens, inflation and unemployment, social welfare work has become a cornerstone for bettering the lifestyle of unprivileged stratum of society.

A recent survey by the Ministry of Social Affairs estimated that people living below the poverty line make up 20 per cent of the population in Jordan. This alarming percentage warrants more and more social welfare programmes to cater to the poor in a bid to alleviate the social repercussions of the economic crisis.

A pioneer in this field is the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF) which is engaged in fieldwork and welfare programmes ranging from social and educational programmes to vocational training, with a concentration in the

reral areas. Established in 1977, the fund played a major role in improving family income and strengthening the role of the woman as an essential partner in the development process, according to the fund's Chairperson Princess Basma Bint Talal.

Princess Basma, an advacate. of social welfare development, said that the fund's main objective was to resurrect a number of now-moribund handicrafts of great historical and cultural

Through that objective, the QAJSWF achieved a dual objective; creating jobs for poor families and reinstating the once flourishing hand-icrafts trade which reflects the heritage of the Kingdom.

In its annual report, the QAJSWF adopted several aims including improving the standard of living of the less fortuoate by assisting them in developing their skills or acquiring new skills. It also aims at sharing data and information oo all aspects of social work with all institutions and individuals interested in social welfare both in Jordan and the Arab World. Much importance is placed on the implementation of a well defined population policy in conformity with the present economic conditions and in anticipation of Jordan's future needs.

The annual report classifies the functions of the fund into

eight categories: - Social Service Centres; which are targeted to serve womeo and children, from nursery and kindergarten to the age of fifteeo. The fund's work plan includes establishing fifty such centres in different areas of the Kingdom, 24 such centres have already been set

- Child Welfare Programmes: which is among one of the fund's most important areas of social work. These programmes give a special attention to children to enable them to grow into fully mature re-sponsible and healthy adults. The accomplishments of the 1989 programme were the furnishing of the Karak Kindergarten Centre and enlarging the kindergarten at the Mafraq Centre as well as furnishing it with all necessary equipment. The fund also organised visits between the kiodergarten

teachers to exchange ideas, ex-



Princess Basma during a visit to

perience and education methods. The fund runs 74 kindergarteos, nurseries. clubs, nutrition centres which benefit 2669 children in several

- Women's Welfare and Rehabilitation Programmes: The fuod gave women special attention in line with its belief that women play a very important role in a society that needs the efforts of all its members in order to push forward the development process. Women were provided with basic skills and education programmes enabling them to play a productive role in society. The fund offered eight education programmes in which the number of participants reached 39,399 women, in addition to 12 training courses which were joined by 1,570 participants.

- Productive Industries: The fund's efforts during 1989 were focused on setting up developmental and social productive industries. The projects which are expected to reach the productive stage in

1990 were designed to provide job opportunities for women. thus enabling them to contribute to their families' incomes and participate in the develop-- Rural Development Prog-

rammes: Due to economic difficulties, the fund concentrated on rural areas to help families in achieving agricultural development, family self-sufficiency and family participation in community development. Thus, it provided farmers and ncedy families with the means to develop agriculture and improve their income, such as setting up plastic greenhouses by donating 7,000 fruit seediings and 3500 other seedlings and other facilities. The fund has also organised literacy classes and special lessons, in addition to setting up Al Nuzha Centre which is equipped with general practice and dentistry clinics used by 8450 patients in

- Special Education Programmes and rehabilitation for the handicapped have been a

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major concern of the fund since its establishment in 1977. A pioneering field study beld by the fund to investigate the extent of the problem in Jordan helped it to develop effective programmes in this field.

The fund in cooperation with international and Arab organisations set up and equipped four centres in Amman, Karak, Irbid and Zarqa.

Two experimental specialeducation classes for slow learners were opened in 1989 in additioo to a number of classes opened in 1987.

Turning the page to a new decade and feeling proud of its achievements during the last thirteen years, the fund aspires to expand more and more in its contribution to the social developement process in the Kingdom. Its work in the nineties will be focused on creating new jobs, especially for womeo, to belp in minimising the unemployment problem and thus contributing in bettering the future of the country.



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A booming business for circumcision king

By Ayse Sariogh Reuter

ANKARA - Turkey's school summer holidays are boom time for circumcisioo King Kemal Ozkan.

"Each year about one million boys come of circumcision age in Turkey," 58-year-old Paramedic Ozkan said.

Up to 20 boys a day will pass through his private Istanbul clinic with proud parents paying as much as half a million lira (\$200) for the privilege.
"Few of them are taken to

hospitals because the hospitals are full and mostly equipped for major surgeries," he said. Circumcision is one of the most

strictly observed religious prac-tices in secular, though predominantly Muslim, Turkey. Muslim families, 99 per cent of Turkey's 55 million population,

regard circumcision as the first step to manhood. Turkish doctors consider circumcision a hygienic and prophylactic practice. Dr. Demokan Erol, chief uro-

logist in an Ankara Hospital. said: "research shows that in communities where early-age circumcision is widely practised, cancers of the male genitalia have a very low incidence.

"I say the best age is from five Why is the operation, usually

performed without anaesthetic. not done on babies at birth? "The boys must be able to remember the occasion," said

Ozkan, with 58,000 circumcisions to his credit in his 26-year-career. And what an occasion it is for . Turkish boys as families indulge their every whim and shower them with presents before the painful but blessedly brief

However, poor the family, all Turkish boys preparing for circumcision wear an embroidered satin pillbox hat and sash.

part of the ritual, each boy is accompanied by an adult male comforter to give him courage as he faces the knife. The male companion or kirve

assumes lifelong obligations to the boy, much like a Christian The skills of Ozkan and the

hygienic conditions under which he performs are not mirrored in much of rural Turkey. In the villages paramedics have

rarely had special training in cir-cuncision. Often the operation is performed by handymen whose sole claim to proficiency is inherited from their fathers.

There are abundant stories of botched circumcisions leading to severed urethras requiring cor-rective surgery, infections and even deaths. "We hear of the occasional

death occurring from circumcisions made by untrained people," Ozkan said. Some do not heed rules of

hygiene, do not have modern instruments and can cause serious physical or psychological damage to a child."

Though the Ministry of Health has no exact figures of deaths or mutilations caused by amateur practitioners, complaints from around the country have spurred government this year to launch a free, nationwide circumcision service.

The ministry will provide surgeons, paramedics and nurses to offer supervised health care in each of Turkey's 73 provinces during the main circumcision

"Unfortunately some of the government-appointed medics are not properly taught to circumcise but a brief training can make them proficient in modernmethods," Ozkan said.

Will the free government circurncision service be bad for busi-Though painkillers are rarely ness? Ozkan doesn't think so.

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Jordan's Special Olympics team leaves for Glasgow

AMMAN — The Jordanian Olympics team for the mentally disabled left Friday for Glasgow, Scotland. where they will be competing against around 3,000 athletes from 32 countries, in the 1990 European Special Olympic Games starting Saturday.

athletes took an oath at an opening ceremony for a training camp beld in Amman; "let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.

With this frame of mind, the athletes bid farewell to their famities Friday morning. Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid relayed

words of encouragement at the gathering, wishing the team the best of luck and hoped the athletes would bring honour to Jordan. He also pointed out that Jordan is very proud to see their fellow citizens participate in the Olympic Games and that the effort that is put in is ultimately the most important element.

Prince Ra'ad said: "Involvement in the Special Olympie Games causes a richer appreciation of the talents and a greater support for the athletes thus uniting the community in an under-standing of people with a mental

Last year, the Jordanian disability. I think the Olympic Games are beneficial and have far reaching results."

The disabled have numerous problems which the community should be familiar with, and through sports, the problems of the mentally disabled can be thrashed, he adds. "In doing so, we are solving the problem and giving their disabled their rights," Prince Ra'ad said.

Dr. Yasser Salem, the director of the Nazek Al Hariri Centre for the Handicapped, says that this year Jordan is represented by 11 male and four female athletes who will be competing in basketball, shotput, the 50 metres, 100 metres and 200 metres races as well as the high jump and the long jamp.

This year the team is much larger and a lot of training was put in by the athletes," Salem

says. In 1987 Jordan, for the first

Special Olympic Games in the United States where they proved their high standard and skills to the world. The athletes returned with five medals — one gold, two silver and two bronze.

"Our expectations are quite high," says the Prince. Since there are so many other countries competing, "our chances are fifty-fifty. But participation is just as important.'

The Special Olympic Games are held to bring about to people with mental disability the acceptance and respect they deserve in a wider community, with the chance to become useful and pro-

With the increasing help and support from Her Majesty Queen Noor and Prince Ra'ad, the Jordan Interline Club, which has contributed this year in making travel easier for the athletes, the chairman of the European Special Olympics, Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver and the president, Mr. Sergeant Shriver, the Jordanian athletes were able to take part in

Like the Special Olympic Games held in 1987, this year, Jordan is the only Arab country competing on an international level, Salem said. Other Arab

time, participated in the Summer countries will join in the 1991 games, but Jordan is working towards becoming a centre among the Arab countries "as we are the only regional country with such a programme for the mentally disabled," Salem adds.

One of the most exciting events that ended Saturday, is the torch run which began in Greece and stretched all the way through Europe, England and Ireland right to Strathclyde in Glasgow where the opening ceremony is being held.

The Glasgow events, which begin Sunday, also includes activities such as Sports Clinics, educational clinics, cultural activities, discos, shopping and trips on the Strathclyde Park for the competitors, coaches and their families,

Over one million people around the world with all types of learning disabilities have taken part in special Olympic programmes. "Jordan has been an active member since 1986, helping the mentally disabled to develop their physical skills, display and improve their talents, as well as to strengthen their character and fulfil their human potential through sports training and competitions in the Olympic tradition." Salem said.

Soviet players refused permit to play abroad

MOSCOW (AP) — Oleg Pro-tasov of Dynamo Kiev and Igor informed about the deal" Kolos-Dobrovolsky of Dynamo Moscow have been denied permission by the Soviet Soccer Federation to play for Greek clnb Olympiakos of Piraeus because they didn't meet age requirements and didn't inform soccer officials of the

The chairman of the federation, Vyacheslav Koloskov, who is also a vice president of FIFA, soccer's world governing body, said Friday in an interview that the players, both of whom scored a goal for the Soviet Union in the recently completed World Cup, were banned by the Executive Committee" from playing for

transfer

Olympiakos. He explained that according to federation rules passed on March 2, only players at least 28-yearsold can work for foreign clubs, Protasov is 26 and Dobrovolsky is

Although Dynamo Kiev had no objections to Protasov's moving to Olympiakos, he did not meet three other conditions.

"Neither the Ukrainian for the

informed about the deal" Koloskov said. "The central board of the Dynamo Club also did not know anything about it."

The chairman also revealed that Dobrovolsky signed "some kind of agreement, but not a contract, with an anonymous representative of the Greek club."

He added that Dobrovolsky did not inform his club authorities about it, so he also was banned from playing for Olympiakos.

There had been a report that Spartak of Moscow player Valery marov also had signed with the Greek team. "This is just invention." Kolos-

kov said. "Shmarov did not give his agreement to anybody, his cinh Spasrtak of Moscow is against (the transfer), like he himslef. This is just a canard."

Koloskov also ruled ont the possibility of any personal deals between Soviet soccer players and foreign clubs, explaining that FIFA will not allow a player to play in a foreign club without the permission of his national federa-

Chinese hope to spring a surprise at Goodwill Games

TACOMA, Washington (R) -China's gymnastics team concede that the Soviets are runaway favourites in the Goodwill Games competition, but officials of the youthful men's squad say the

Chinese could surprise the rest. Even without 1989 world allaround champion Igor Korobchinski, the Soviets will field an impressive line-up in the opening team competition including Valentin Mogilny, silver medal-list at the 1989 world championships, and Olympic silver medallist Valery Lyokin.

China, which finished third at the 1989 world championships, are entering a team aged from just 16 to 19, but coach Liu Wanfa said despite their youth, his team has a good chance at taking second place.

"If everything goes smoothly we prohably should be able to get number two," Liu said Thursday through an interpreter.

With the world's top three

players, including number one

Steffi Graf, missing the competi-

the trophy they have won 13

Graf is recovering from a sinus

operation and in her absence the

West Germans, champions in

Other absentees include world

number two Martina Navratilova,

a member of the winning team

with Garrison last year, and num-

ber three Monica Seles of Yugos-

lavia, leaving the spotlight on the 26-year-old Garrison as the week-

long tournament's top-ranked

Garrison, fourth in the world

after stunning upsets of Seles and

Graf on her way to last month's Wimhledon final against Navrati-

lova, has risen not only in the

rankings but also in the estima-

tion of those who had doubted

1987, are seeded only eighth.

contest with the U.S. team, the Japan team, the GDR (East Germany)," said Lai Peilin, delegation leader of the Chinese team, which is comprised of Ma Jun. 18. Guo Linyao, 18, Li Xiaoshuang, 16 and Nong Qiang, aged 19. The team event will include

"We think we can take the

four competitors from each nation instead of the usual six. Only the three highest scores will While the Soviets are likely to

dominate the team competition, individual events will provide other teams with their best chance for gold.

No more than two gymnasts from each nation can qualify for the individual competitions.

The top 16 finishers from the team event qualify for the individual all-around competition, and the top eight competitors from the team event qualify for

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 21, 1990 By Thornas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today's New Moon and Solar Eclipse provides you with an excellent opportunity to think big and to get big. Contact the most unique and talented individual with whom you have cooperation.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Friends of unique and unusua talents are able to show you how you can arrive at that feeling of wellbeing that is so important to

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think in terms of what you can do to make a greater place in the sun for yourself by bringing to the attention of prominent persons your finest qualities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Lots of interesting up to date activities with which you are not familiar are the best ways for you to study and become a part of the current scene.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are usually bound by tradition but now you have a day when you can let your imagination soar to new and different heights of

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Decide which of your outside contacts is the most progressive and get in touch with that individual to let your worldly ambitions be known. gain support.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) All sorts of opportunities are now present for you to get fellow. workers to go along with your advanced ideas so more benefits

come from joint undertaking. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A great day for you to put whatever finishing touches are needed oo anything of a special or creative nature that you are now

performing and get good result. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21). You can now take the best from the past at your residence and add to it to the various current efficiencies that can make your home more liveable.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be off and away to those places and persons who understand your present needs and are able to belp make them a success and you get their assist

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A new approach at your property and investments can now greatly increase them and put you in a higher bracket by being openminded to change.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are loaded with good ideas and talents now so make notations of them so, you have them when opportunities arise to make good use of them. ...

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider well the suggestions privately given you by one who knows how to make your dreams come true and then put such plan into execution.

32 teams complete **U.S. solar car race**

pushed temperatures into the 80s and glinted off solar panels as 32 sun-powered cars built hy college students zipped across the last leg of a 1641-mile (2,640-kilometre) Florida-to-Detroit race.

The University of Michigan's Sunrunner had its first mechanical delay, a 10-minute stop for a drive-chain repair, but easily held its elapsed-time lead for first overall in the 11-day race.

Crossing the line first after Thursday's 84-mile trek, however, was Western Washington University's Viking XX, which

finished second overall. The flat, lightweight cars finished with faint whines and

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hums rather than booming exhausts and smoking tires.

Like the Sunrunner, just over three feet (one metre) high hut spreading 19 feet (5.8 metres) in length and 6.6 feet (2 metres) across, the cars were designed to expose the maximum area of solar cells to the sun and run on minimum power.

The Sunrunner finished in 72 honrs, 50 minntes and 47 seconds, averaging 22.5 mph

The GM Sunrayce USA, which started on July 9 at Disney World, was sponsored by General Motors Corp., the U.S. Department of Energy and the Society of Authomotive Engineers.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Sanchez advances to quarterfinals

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (AP) - Top seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario dropped the first set but battled back to beat unseeded Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$225,000 Virginia Slims of Newport Tennis Tournament. Sanchez-Vicario, ranked 7th in the world, won 4-6, 6-2, 6-2. After succumbing to Schultz's bullet serve in the first set. Sanchez-Vicario broke Schultz in the first and third games of the second set and from then on was rarely tested, "I really concentrated in the first game of the second set and after that I had a lot of confidence that I could play better and better," Sanchez-Vicario said. Fourth-seeded Ros Fairbank-Nideffer survived a 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 battle against fellow American Audra Keller to advance to the quarterfinals. "I came into the match feeling like I was going to win and I didn't put in the effort I should have," Fairbank-Nideffer said. Unseeded Australian Liz Smylie also advanced to the quarterfinals by edging South African Robyn Field 7-5, 6-3.

Danjels retains WBA boxing title

SEATTLE, Washington (R) - Robert Daniels retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior heavyweight title Thursday with a unanimous points decision over fellow American Craig Bodzianowski in a slow-paced, 12-round bout. Bodzianowski, who lost his right foot in a motorcycle accident six years ago, now fights wearing a prosthesis. His leg was amputated just above the ankle in 1984. He started boxing again the following year. Daniels, fighting at 188½ pounds (85.5 kilogrammes), connected with solid shots to the head throughout the fight but was unable to knock down the 190 pound (86.18 kilogramme) challenger. Bodzianowski, his left eve swollen shut, said he was hampered after the second round by sore ribs. The 29-year-old challenger said he had been suffering from pains in his right rib cage for two months. The judges scored the fight 119-110, 118-109 and 118-109. It was the first title defence for the 21-year-old

McEnroe falls to Rostagno again, Mayotte also upset

WASHINGTON (R) — John McEnore suffered his second straight disappointment at the hands of fellow American Derrick Rostagno and the former world number one was beginning to question his chances of a return

The third-seeded McEnore dropped his third round match at the \$550,000 Washington Tennis Classic 6-3 1-6 6-1 to the 11thranked Rostagno, who banded McEnroe an embarrassing first round Wimbledon defeat earlier

this summer. "The hurt of losing when you get older is much worse than the excitement of winning," lamented 12th-ranked McEnore.

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Fourth seed and defending champion Tim Mayotte also suffered a third round upset in sweltering heat and high burnidity when he let a 6-2 4-2 lead slip away and fell to fellow American Todd Witsken, the 14th-seed, 2-6

Three other seeded Americans safely reached the quarter-finals with relative ease.

Top seed Andre Agassi ousted Israeli Gilad Bloom 6-1 7-5 in the featured night match, second seed hrad Gilbert eliminated 16th-seeded Canadian Anrew Sznajder 6-2 6-3 and fifth-second former French Open champion Michael Chang breezed past Australian Simon Youl 6-1 6-1 in just 56 minutes.

Following Wimbledon McEn-roe declared he would "kick his butt" if he met Rostagno again. But the former world number one never came close to making good his promise.

Rostagno came out hot, grab-bing a 3-0 lead, and never let McEnroe into the first set.

The pro-McEnroe crowd came alive when the third seed raced to a 6-1 second set win. But it was more a let down by Rostagno than McEnroe hitting his stride that sent the match into a third set.

The old John McEnroe would have ridden his second set momentum to an easy third set victory, but instead Rostagno immediately shook off his middle. set blues.

Rostagno broke McEnroe with a crafty backhand crosscourt vollev on his second break point in the second game. He captured McEnroe's serve again in the fourth game with reflex forehand volley that gave him a huge 4-0 lead and he never looked back.

"I feel I concentrated better against certain players," said Rostagno, who is 2-2 against McEnroe. "I don't know what the determining factors are, but I do better against some players."

Garrison, Capriatilead U.S. at Federation Cup

> Since turning professional shortly before her 14th birthday in March, Capriati has rocketed

tion, the powerful American team have high bopes of retaining ratilova and Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini in two of her first three tournaments and was a semifinalist at the French Open and a quarter-final loser to Graf at

Wimbledon. Despite those precocions heroics, Capriati is not even the second-ranked player on the U.S. team. That honour goes to world number eight Mary Joe Fernandez who, with namesake Gigi Fernandez, ranked 24th, com-

Second-seeded Spain, runnersup in Tokyo last year, could find the fast hardcourts in Atlanta a

Their top players, 1989 French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and 10th-ranked Conchita Martinez are much more at home on slow day.

ATLANTA (R) - Zina Garri- the Texan's will to win. son and Jennifer Capriati, cur-Capriati, 14, is making her rently two of the hottest names in Federation Cup debut but tennis, lead the United States in their defence of the Federation Cup starting Monday.

to number 13 in the world. She reached finals against Nav-

pletes the line-up.

disadvantage.

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The bidding: West South North East Pass Pass Pass Dbi Pass Opening lead: Ace of V

Bridge players get into the habit of ruffing losers. As a result, the of diamoods and ruffs his own trick benefits of ruffing a winner are sometimes overlocked. South correctly decided to open one spade rather than a preemptive

four spades. After all, as little as the ace of diamonds and queen-jack of clubs in parmer's hand could have made slam a laydown. After North's pass and East's takeout double, however, South was no longer sure whose hand it was and

the jump to game was a two-way action-it might make, would not prove expensive if it did not and might keep the opponents out of a makable game. West led the ace of hearts and

declarer went down to defeat quickly. The opening lead was ruffed. trumps were drawn in two rounds and a diamond went to the queen and ace. Declarer ruffed the heart return and tried leading clubs from hand twice in an effort to fetch the ace-down one, losing three clubs and the ace of diamonds.

Declarer was in so much of a hurry to draw the enemy fangs that the power of dummy's trumps was overlooked. After ruffing the ace of hearts, declarer should have ignored trumps and led a diamond to the queen and ace. Assume East returns a trump. South wins, leads the king in dummy-declarer desperately eds the entry to the table so he can lead a club to his king. When East turns up with the ace, the king of clubs becomes the fulfilling trick.

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THE Daily Crossword by Fred Tools

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14 Butter kin
15 Overexpose 15 Overexposed 16 Interjection 18 Latin music 18 Latin music 19 Magic stick 20 The present 22 Gag or loke end 23 Bacchanalia 23 Bacchanalia 24 Bird beak 26 Hidden 28 Some wrestiers -31 Deli meat 35 Plow bottom 36 Swear to daughter 39 Dupe 40 Upright 42 Unimaginative 43 Extra 45 Agrippina's Yesterday's Puzzle Selved: 47 Cycles

49 Goes against 51 In quest of 52 Railways 54 Ir. Islands 57 Attack harshly 8 City on the 59 Ancient 63 Vocalize 9 Hears 10 Godly gridder 11 Lab gei 12 Nautical rope 13 Vortex 64 "...have eaten — grape" 66 Capri e.g. 67 Sound 68 Probe 25 Heavy timber 27 Corn unit 69 Collars 28 Canina 70 Printing style; 29 Greeting abbr. 30 Eng. river 71 Shut-eye 32 Correspond 72 Tough trip 33 Disables

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Delors says Soviets need Western help

Union's economy needs Western omy from Moscow but Delors help and President Mikhail Gorsaid he believed monetary policy bachev may know by October what sort and how much help to expect, European Commission President Jacques Delors said

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Delors, on his first official visit to Moscow, told reporters that experts from European Commnuity (EC) headquarters in Brussels would visit Moscow in August to prepare a report on the Soviet economy, reforms and aid

The report is due to be compicted by late October, before an EC summit in Rome.

Gorbachev, after talks with Delors Thursday, declared his perestroika reforms had reached a "critical moment" and appealed for Western economie support, saying it would benefit all man-

"We need to see right now real fruits of the realisation that perestroika is not only our business. It concerns all of us, it is in the interests of the whole world," Gorbachev said.

Delors, in his remarks Friday, said Gorbachev and Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov were committed to market-oriented reforms to revive the crippled eco-

nomy.
"They are now convinced that the march towards a market economy will be the best way of reviving the economy and of resolving the imbalances present

in the Soviet economy," he said. EC leaders announced at a summit last month that they would consider financial aid for Moscow, but would wait for the report oo the Soviet economy by the commission, the EC's execu-

tive arm. Delors said the Soviet Union "needs at least technical assist-

He said he was struck by Gorbachev's grasp of the principles of market economics. "He knows what be is talking about."
"I think that by the end of

October we shall know the content of reforms and the way in which they bave been received," he said.

The EC visit was largely exploratory and Delors did not want to draw conclusions about the Soviet economy before the commission's study had been completed. But he said he was concerned that individual Soviet republics would create their own

Some Soviet republics are in-

MOSCOW (AP) - The Soviet creasingly asserting their antonsaid he believed monetary policy should be under central government control.

> Ryzhkov is reviewing price and other reforms proposed earlier this year but not implemented due to opposition from the public and members of parliament.

The reforms, involving price rises for basic commodities, sparked panie buying aod threatened Ryzhkov's political

Delors said his visit's main purpose was to open a dialogue with the Soviet authorities. The EC wants to set up an office in Moscow, but its foreign affairs commissioner Frans Andriesseo said it was hard to find suitable.

The EC chief said last month's EC summit in Dublio and the summit in Houston, Texas, earlier this month of leaders of the seven major Western industrialised nations showed that oo one

rished to isolate Soviet Union. The so-called Group of Seven (G-7) leaders said they were prepared to belp Soviet economic reforms but they also withheld any possible financial aid until they had seen a report on the country's economy due to be sub-mitted by the end of the year.

The G-7 study group is separate from the EC's and will be led by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It is due to meet in New York Saturday, international financial sources said.

Danista Gianier

120,1 120.8 449.2 451.9 357.4 359.5 111.3 112.0 55.0 55.3 195.0 196.2

BIS report shows rising bank claims

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) Claims by Western commercial banks expanded by 9.8 per cent on Eastern Europe last year and by 18.4 per cent on the Soviet Union, according to a new

The Bank of International Settlements (BIS) survey said the banks' claims — including loans plus accrued interest — on Eastern Europe went up by \$3.3 billioo during the July-December period to \$96 billion following a \$5.3 billioo increase in the first

Claims on the Soviet Union stood at \$43.2 billion at the end of the year, rising by \$1.9 billion in the second half after increasing by \$4.8 billion in the first half. Undisbursed credit commitments also continued to expand.

At the same time, the Soviet Union drew down its deposits with the reporting Western banks by \$1.3 billion, according to the

The other major Eastern European borrowers during the second balf of 1989 were East Germany at \$800 million and Czechoslovakia at \$700 million. Claims on East Germany totalled \$17 billioo and on Czechoslovakia were \$5.4 billion at the end of the year. Claims on Hungary totalled \$11.9 billioo, up \$100 million, and were \$10 billion on Poland, down \$200 million.

Lending to Third World countries — excluding OPEC members — dropped by \$9.2 billion to \$305.6 billion. Of these, claims on Latin American countries declined by \$7.7 billion to \$176.1

Analysts see job losses ushering in **U.S.** recession

may soon spread to the service sector and make the world's largest economy more vulnerable to recession, analysts say.

Hundreds of thousand of Americans in basic businesses from carmaking to metalworking bave lost their jobs in the past year and that is slowly spreading fear among consumers who fuel expansion through their porch-

"It's all part of a process in which economic activity seems to be grinding slowly to a halt," commented David Jones, chief economist with Aubrey Lanston and Co. in New York.

Cautious consumers rein in spendiog because they worry about their job, plants lay people off as sales decline and eventually the whole pace of the economy

Manufacturing companies that make long-lasting durable goods account for 20 to 25 per cent of total job opportunities and they have long been seen as the backbone of America. More foreign sales of U.S.-

made goods are seen as a possible saviour because of strong markets in countries like Germany, but may not be enough to offset seeping weakness at home. "The problem is we buy an awful lot more Mercedes than they do Chevrolets," Jooes remarked.

The rest of the work opportunities are in service industries, not simply low-paying "bamburger-

WASHINGTON (R) - A flipper jobs but also highly skil-mounting toll of job losses in led health care, financial and real U.S. manufacturing industries estate. Those jobs have been increasing, though more slowly in 1990, while manufacturing jobs shrink.

The Labour Department said last week that 30,000 U.S. factory jobs were lost in June alone. Since the current slide in manufacturing employment began in the spring of 1989, job losses have totalled 335,000, with especially large declines in durable goods industries such as electrical equipment, autos, fabricated metals and machinery,

er of Burean of Labour Statistics. Somewhat ominously, says economist Jones, the pace of job growth io service industries also bas begun to slow. Excluding temporary employees hired to count Americans for the 10-year census, service jobs bave expanded by an average 122,000 a month for three months compared with 203,000 a mooth over

said Janet Norwood, commission-

the past 12 months. "It doesn't say we're going to be in recession tomorrow," Jones said, "but it does suggest the economy is on a downward glide path perhaps towards a hard landing rather than the soft landing the Fed wants."

The Federal Reserve (Fed) board - the U.S. central bank that cootrols mooey-supply policies - has been trying to wring wage and price-rise pressures out of the economy without pushing it into recession in a scenario that is known as a soft landing.

Gulf tension sends jitters through world oil markets

SINGAPORE (R) — Rising ten-sion in the Middle East is sending itters through the oil markets as traders wait to see who will win a battle of the oil giants at next week's OPEC meeting.

A war of words between Iraq and Kuwait has boosted world oil prices last week but could sabotage the July 26 meeting of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil industry sources said Friday.

"The world is not short of oil," said one international oil trader. "But I am going to square my books before leaving the office at night - I don't want to wake op in the morning and suddenly find someone fired a gun."

Iraq has accused Kuwait and

the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of stabbing Iraq in the back by producing too much oil and driving oil prices down. Iraq's President Saddam Hus-

eio launched his attack on fellow Gulf oil producers less than a week after the two OPEC quotabusters agreed to sharply reduce their output to 1.5 million barrels

per day (b/d) each.
"Iraq knew Kuwait was going to ask for a bigger production quota from October in return for reducing output in the interim," said a European company oil trader based here.

"It's a clear message to Kuwait that it will not get a higher quota," be added.

Saddam said Tuesday that Baghdad would take unspecified action against some Gulf Arab mine the Iraqi economy.

Traq's Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz later accused Kuwait of stealing more than \$2.4 billion worth of oil from Iraq over the past decade by pumping crude

In a counter-attack Thursday, Kuwait accused Iraq of consistent encroachments oo its territory and of digging oil wells in its territory.

Oil traders say the outcome of an OPEC meeting beld in this atmosphere is impossible to pre-

If Iraq is supported by other traditional OPEC bawks Iran, Libya and Algeria, OPEC oil production could be capped at 22.5 million b/d for the rest of the year which could push prices sharply higher.

"Prices will rise if Iraq get control of the situation," said the European oil trader.

OPEC moderates such as Saudi Arabia want modest price rises and favour raising output in the fourth quarter if the current \$18 target is achieved in the meantime, oil industry sources say.

The Middle East beochmark crude, from Dubai, is currently trading just over \$16.00 a barrel for cargoes loading in September.

If Kuwait refuses to stick to a production quota of 1.5 million b/d from October, the UAE would also want to produce more and total OPEC output will start to creep up again before the market has a chance to absorb the states if they continued to under- current worldwide glut, oil

complicated now," said the international oil trader.

"Iraq says it would consider usiog force — we've never had that situation at OPEC before,"

he noted. He said Saudi Arabia and Kuwait bave to take Iraq's threats seriously. "Iraq has a huge army out there - no one likes to be bullied into anything but they

bave no eboice. "Saudi Arabia is still a power ful force in OPEC but Iraq is becoming stronger," said a Japanese oil trader.

There are still two possible outcomes of the OPEC meeting, said the European oil trader. "I'm staying absolutely square." Meanwhile, Libyan Oil Minis-

ter Fawzi Sbaksbouki has urged independent producers to support OPEC efforts to stabilise the world oil market.

He told an African Petroleum Producers' Association (APPA) meeting in Tripoli that some non-OPEC exporters shared the blame with certain OPEC members for the 30 per cent decline in oil prices during the first half of

Shakshouki named no names but the OPEC members he was apparently referring to were Kuwait and the UAE

"We believe that such stability could only be achieved through the creation of a balance in supply and demand in the market and this is the responsibility of all oil exporting countries," the Libyan news agency JANA quoted bim

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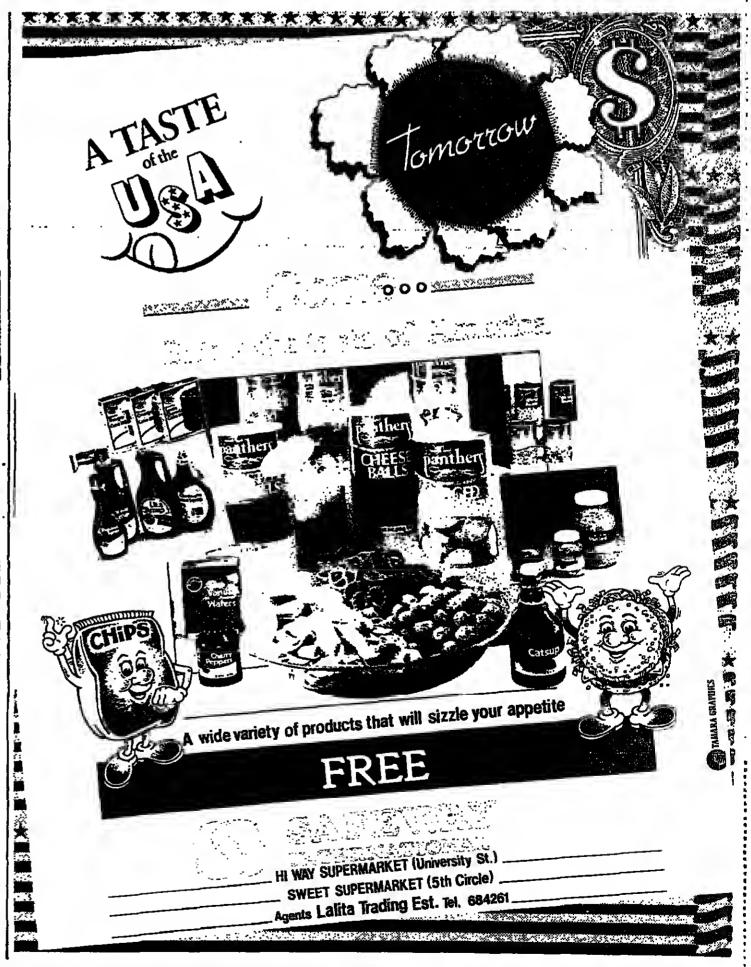
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

405.2

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, July 19, 1990 Central Bank official rates

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling One U.S. dollar

1.6410/15 1.8485/95 1.4055/65 33.75/76 5.5020/70 1200/1201 148.97/149.07 5.9350/9400 6.2875/2925 6.2275/2325

Canadian dollar 1.1535/45 Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

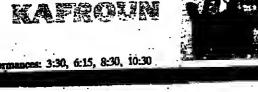
U.S. dollar

One ounce of gold 360.70/361.10

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Cinema CONCORD

Dureld Lahham / Madeline Tabar





PHILADELPHIA

Shirley Maclaine

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 1

and the second s en jedinak ing pangangan dalam d Salam dalam da



Tel: 634144

Tel: 675571 MUOUM Amro Thiab and Madina Kamei (Arabic) Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m



N. Korea rejects South's offer to open heavily fortified border

SEOUL (R) - North Korea Friday swiftly countered a South Korea challenge to temporarily open their heavily fortified border, laying down strict conditions before Koreans could walk between the two halves of their nation.

Pyongyang imposed the conditions less than 10 hours after South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo made the offer to open the border for five days centred around Korean independence

day on Aug. 15. Roh, calling Pyongyang's bluff, echoed a similar proposal Pyongyang made two weeks ago and cold-shouldered as "a piece of propaganda," at that time by Seoul.

A Roh spokesman, quoted by Yonhap News Agency, said Seoul would open the horder regardless of Pyongyang's reaction.

The spokesman said the issue would be discussed Saturday by the South Korean cabinet. There was no other immediate comment

Hopes

quake

victims

exceed 1,000.

injuring a crewman.

fade for

Philippine

BAGUIO, Philippines (R) -

Rescuers searched in vain for

signs of life among collapsed

buildings Friday and Philippine

officials feared the death tall

from the deadliest earthquake to

hit the country in 14 years could

Four days after a powerful

quake devastated this northern

Phillippine mountain city, a new

tragedy struck when a U.S.

marine observation plane on a

relief mission crashed into a near-

by mountain, killing its pilot and

In Manila, President Corazon

Aquino called an emergency

cabinet meeting for Friday night

and army rebels announced they

were suspending hostilities

against her while the country was

American, British and

Japanese rescue experts tunnel-

led through mounds of rubble at

Baguio's Hyatt Hotel, the only

building where relief workers be-

lieve victims may still be alive

after being entombed in the ruins

Rescuers abandoned hope of

Baguio hotels and the university

campus, where school buildings

crumbled at the height of the

quake, which measured 7.7 on

The discovery of np to 100

bodies under landslides to the

north of Baguio pushed the death

"Tourism Under-Secretary

Rafael Alunan said the final toll

could easily exceed 1,000" since

many areas that uright have suf-

fered heavy destruction had not

"There are many areas we have

Bodies were piled up outside

A U.S. Marine OV-10 observa-

funeral parlours which could not

meet the demands for coffins.

tion aircraft was flying around

Baguio City to discover where

victims of the earthquake were

stranded when it smashed into a

mountain five kilometres south of

U.S. officials said they were

Ex-army Colonel Gregorio

Honasan, whose forces nearly

toppled the government in a

bloody coup attempt last Decem-

ber, said in a press statement that

rebel soldiers were suspending all

hostile actions against the govern-

In exchange, Honasan asked

Aquino to suspend military op-

erations against the rebels, saying

"opportunities like this which could lead to a total reunification

of the country should not be

ment in view of the calamity.

investigating the cause of the

yet been thoroughly surveyed.

not seen. We have not even

begun to make a headcount,'

the open-ended Richter Scale.

anyone alive at lour other

for four days.

toll beyond 800.

Alunan said.

the city.

crash.

recovering from the calamity.

Korean state radio reporting that Pyongyang had rejected Roh's offer as "frandnlent prop-Japan's Kyodo News Agency, quoting Pyongyang radio, carried from the presidential spokesman. South Korea's state-run Korea

a similar report. Analysts and diplomats had hoped Roh's offer to open the

The statement was milder than

a report earlier Friday on South

border could prompt a new round of dialogue between the Koreas. bitterly opposed since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Seoul has already moved to ase some restrictions on travel to the North, although unauthorised trips are still punishable by long prison terms.

The issue of the "wall" may be thornier, however. Seoul says the wall" is actually a series of non-continuous tank traps designed to prevent another Northern invasion.

"For five days beginning Aug. 15 and cha 13, we will keep Pannumjom the same.

open as passage and will accept brethren from the North without restriction," Roh said earlier

"This is our proposal, let's make some move," challenged presidential advisor Lee Hong-

'Let's have at least five days of free passage through Panmunjom," Lee told reporters.

Lee said Roh's cabinet would meet Saturday to settle practical details that would translate Roh's announced "free, unrestricted and unconditional exchange" into a regulated programme for a li-

mited number of people. "We will try to maximise the number of people who can be processed," Lee said, promising that individual political beliefs would not be considered.

On July 6, Pyongyang offered to open its half of Panmunjom for free cross-border travel on Aug. 15 and challenged the South to do

Cambodia welcomes U.S. policy shift

Cambodian government in Phnom Penh, shaken by more frequent Khmer Rouge attacks and internal bickering, has welcomed a decision by the United States in end its recognition of the guerrillas' seat at the United

The state-run news agency SPK quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying: "the gov-ernment of the state of Cambodia warmly welcomes this constructive stance of the United States and considers it a new encouragement to the Cambodian people in their national defence and reconstruction."

Broadcasting System quoted

Pyongyang as saying North Korea

demanded the demolition of a

so-called wall along the horder,

repeal of laws banning travel to

the North and formation of a

joint North-South committee to

The official (North) Korean

Central News Agency, monitored

in Tokyo, quoted Pyongyang au-

thorities as saying:
"We declare that if the above-

said matters are resolved, we will

believe what the South Korean

authorities said is true and realise

a partial travel through Panmun-

jom without time-limit from the

15th of August, though limited."

BANGKOK (Agencies) — The

resolve border issues.

A transcript of the report was made available here on Friday. The diplomatically isolated Cambodian government, instal-led in 1978 after Vietnam ousted the Khmer Rouge from power, has looked increasingly vulnerable to guerrilla attacks and political infighting since the withdrawai of Vietnamese troops last

At the same time it has won admiration among some Western

the only effective buttress against a return to power of the Khmer Rouge, held responsible for the deaths of more than a million Cambodians during its 1975-78

In his surprise statement Wednesday, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Washington would do all it could to prevent a takeover by the radical guerrilla group, including direct talks with Hanoi on speeding up a political solution.

The United States and China have in the past decade supported the guerrilla coalition, formed from the ashes of the Khmer Rouge and exile groups, in its bush-war against Phnom Penh. But only in the last year have the guerrillas looked a serious threat.

Meanwhile, non-Communist Cambodian guerrillas said Friday heavy government shelling has forced them out of a central Cambodian town that functioned as the capital of the territory they

Guerrillas loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk retreated along with civilians Thursday to and Asian nations who see it as the ontskirts of the town, Stoung,

in Kompong Thom province, said sookesman Roland Eng.

He said government forces had rained artillery shells and rockets on the area for two days, and some civilians were hurt. Neither side held Stoung Fri-

day, but some guerrillas have returned there, Eng said in a telephone interview from his Bangkok office.

The guerrillas said they took Stoung April 12, and since used it as an administrative and communications base for wide areas of the province they have seized. Eng denied a statement from the Cambodian government that it had retaken Stoung last Sun-

Stnnng is only about 150 kilometres north of the national capital, Phnom Penh. It was the most populated town under guerrilla control with tens of thousands of residents.

Sihanonk said Thursday his forces were more determined than ever to fight after the U.S. announced a day earlier that it was withdrawing recognition of the coalition's seat at the United

Cuba accuses U.S., W. Germany and Czechoslovakia of asylum plot

who accused foreign diplomats of a plot to discredit Cuba through a failed asylum bid at the Czechoslovak embassy. The testimony, in a programme

screened by Cuba's state television, said an asylum bid by 14 Cubans at the Czechoslovak embassy in Havana last week was a planned provocation conceived by U.S. and West German diplomats and carried out by the Czechoslovak mission.

It also suggested the Canadian embassy might have been implicated in the alleged plnt, a charge strongly denied by a Canadian embassy spokesman.

ment in the asylum affair, which has badly strained relations between Cuba and its former Communist ally Czechoslovakia. "There is no truth at all in any

association of the U.S. interests

section with the events at the Czechoslovak embassy," a U.S. spokesman told Reuters. West German and Czechoslovak diplomats were not immediately available for comment.

Other Western diplomats expressed doubts about many of the details of the testimony. "There really are a lot of questions," one

The programme included testi- country.

HAVANA (R) -- Cuba has re- A spokesman for the U.S. in- mony by two leading humanleased testimony hy dissidents terests section in Havana categor- rights activists currently in detenand would-be asylum seekers ically denied any U.S. involve- tion facing rebellion charges, Tania Diaz Castro and Pablo Pupo, as well as three Cubans who took part in the failed asyhum bid.

> "This action was pre-conceived to create conflict both nationally and internationally," one of the Cubans who appeared on the programme, Lazaro Angel Cab-

Cahrera was one of five Cubans who sought protection at the Czechoslovak embassy on July 9. They were granted protection by the embassy, which asked Cuba to allow them to leave the

EC commissioner: Europe bored with Britain's narrow nationalists

retort to criticism of the Common Market by Ex-trade Secretary Nicholas Ridley, EC Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan said the rest of Europe is growing bored with Britain's nationalist stance. "For some people in this country, the European debate never seems to move on," he said. There are countless urgent and important decisions to be taken about its future size, role and structure. The whole of Europe,

LONDON (AP) - In a veiled

indeed, is at a critical and exciting stage of its history. "Yet too often Britain is marginalised by those who continue to worry away at the bone of sovereignty, and by those who perpetuate the caricature of what the community represents," he

said in a speech Thursday night.

"The British people are perplexed by the mixed signals they receive. The rest of Europe was first patient, later annoyed and is now frankly hored by such atti-tudes. We (the British) are in danger of being ignored."

Brittan quit as trade secretary in Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's cabinet in 1986 in a dispute over handling of the ailing Westland Helicopter Com-On Thatcher's nomination, he

became one of Britain's two members of the 17-member Executive Commission of the 12nating European Community (EC) in 1989. He is a vice president of the Brussels-based Commission and the body's commissioner for competition policy. Ridley resigned as trade secret-

ary last week following publication of an interview in the weekly political magazine the Spectator. In the interview, Ridley said the West German government's support for European Monetary Union was "a German racket designed to take over the whole of Europe," accused the French of acting like "poodles" to the Germans, and lambasted the Commission and other EC in-

Ridley withdraw the remarks within hours of their publication on July 12 but resigned two days later following a barrage of criticism at home and from Germany and other EC countries.

Brittan did not mention Ridley by name in his speech in London to an organisation of British legislators called the Bruges Group.

Marshall Islands reject U.S. plans to burn nerve gas

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (R) - Micronesian leaders objected Friday to U.S. plans to burn its European nerve-gas stockpile in the Pacific. The Federated States of Micronesia, a former U.S. territory in the Western Pacific still closely associated with Washington, said that burning America's chemical-weapons stockpile on Johnston Island violated U:S. and international law on disposing hazardous

"Transporting the European stockpile halfway around the world inescapably increases the risks," a government statement

"If there is an accident during the off-loading of the European stockpile, the community affected will not he the United States, it will be the Pacific Island nations," it added.

Micronesia added its protest to a growing barrage of criticism from governments and environmental organisations in the region about the U.S. army's plan to move chemical weapons now stored in West Germany to Johnston Island.

The weapons would be shipped in September to Johnston, a tiny, low-lying coral island just large enough to accommodate a jet runway. It is located 1,400

kilometres southwest of Hawaii and lies 3,000 kilometres east of the Micronesian Island chain.

Micronesia has a population of 140,000 people scattered across hundreds of islands in an ocean area the size of the continental United States.

U.S. army officials said tests of the chemical-weapons incinerator on Johnston Island earlier this month were successful, and fullscale destruction of chemical weapons already on the island should begin next year.

In an environmental impact statement released in June, the U.S. army claimed the risks of it said.

accidents during shipment and handling of the weapons were

"The army's plan may be politically expedient, but it ignores the need for a coherent solution to the problem," the Micronesian statement said.

Micronesia is also worried that Johnston Island may be used in the future to dispose of other hazardous materials.

"Suspicions are necessarily aroused because of the U.S. government's broken promise to use Johnston solely for the management of the Okinawa stockpile,"

Sri Lanka extends emergency to 'crush' rebels

COLOMBO (R) - Sri Lanka's parliament has extended a state of emergency after Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said special powers were needed to "hammer the daylights" out of Tamil separatist guerrillas.

"We are going to crush them but we need the emergency and your support to allow its extension." Wijeratne told a late-night debate.

More than 1,400 people have been killed in fighting in the northeast since June after the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) started attacking army camps and police posts.

The attacks took many by surprise since the Tigers, the most powerful rebel group fighting for a separate state for minority Tamils, were holding peace talks with the government.

Wijeratne said troops had made inroads into rebel territory in the east and were pursuing them into the jungles. "We are taking them head-on," he said. The thrust was now in the

north, he said but added: "I can't give the strategy."
"You will soon see our valiant forces hammering the daylights out of those criminals," said Wi-

jeratne, whose pugnacious words make newspaper headlines daily. However, residents in the east. which the government said had been cleared of rebels, say Tiger guerrillas were still prowling in

towns and villages. "As soon as it is dark, the army is absent and the rebels move freely with arms," one villager

The state of emergency, imposed in May, 1989, to combat eftwing militants of the majority Sinhalese community who were trying to topple the government, gives the security forces extra powers and must be extended by parliament every month.

On Thursday, the extension was approved by 117 votes to one against.

The main opposition, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, said it was backing the military action but opted to abstain from voting. Wijeratne, who is also minister

in charge of a plantation industries, said troops had taken control of most parts of Mannar on the northwest coast, where the Tigers bombarded army camps with mortars and rocketfire. "We have offered Mannar is-

land to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to keep refugees there," he said. At least 25,000 Tamils have fled in boats to south India, divided from north Sri Lanka by a 32-kilometre stretch of water, to escape the fighting.

The minister elaimed the Tigers were forcing residents to flee in order to get India's sympathy. "India lost 1,500 soldiers.... in a war with the Tigers. They won't be foolish to send troops again,"

Wijeratne said.

New Delhi sent 50,000 men between July, 1987, and March, 1990, to end the separatist revolt but the Tigers were not defeated. Witeratne denied Tiger charges of army attacks on civilians but said: "We are impressing upon soldiers that they should win the hearts and minds of the people. Things are under control.

But visitors to the rebel-stronghold of Jaffna in the north reported large-scale destruction of buildings and property in bombing raids by air force planes. Civilian casualties were also high, they said.

The military office, monitoring the offensive, said Friday that two rebels were killed in overnight searches at Tirrukovil in the

It reported deaths of 49 rebels and two soldiers in the 24 hours to Thursday afternoon. The report could not be independently

eration President Boris Yeltsin, to officials in the Russian Federawho won popular support by detion as of Aug. 1, saying they nouncing the privileges enjoyed "violate social justice," TASS by the roling chite, has abolished reported. those inxuries for the republic's Abolished were privileges "on officials. Soviet News Agency power, on unearned payments, (TASS) reported Thursday.

on undeserved benefits, (and) on The decree did not appear to undeserved and unearned comfor table working and living condiapply to thousands of high-ranking officials of the national govtions of organisations, enterernment and Communist Party prises, offices and workers of the who live and work in Moscow. apparatus of state organs." It said that as of Aug. 1, all which is both the capital of the

legislative acts, resolutions, in-

structions and regulations directly Federation, the largest of the 15 Soviet republics. or indirectly ensuring privileges The decree from the Presidium of the Russian Parliament that was signed by Yeltsin abolished

Soviet Union and the Russian

Yeltsin abolishes

privileges for officials

MOSCOW (AP) -- Russian Fed- all kinds and forms of privileges

to officials, "no matter what posts they hold," will be considered

IRA bomb explodes at **London Stock Exchange** ONDON (R) - An IRA bomb Irish accent, said: "This is the

blasted the London Stock Ex- IRA. The bornb is due to go off in change Friday, wrecking part of the ground floor but causing no

A city of London police spokeswoman said the building was evacuated within three minutes after telephone warnings to an international news agency from a caller claiming to represent the guerrilla Irish Republican Army (IRA).

"There is a lot of rubble and a lot of damage but no casualties," the police spokeswoman, who was at the scene of the hlast, said.

The fire brigade said 10 per cent of the ground floor at the stock exchange, where about 2,500 people work, was damaged when the bomb went off some 50 minutes after the first warning was received.

Workers outside the building said it appeared the blast occurred in the visitors' gallery over-

looking the main trading floor. The attack is the second to be claimed by the IRA within a month and to strike at the heart of the British establishment in central London.

"It sounded like someone dropping a girder on a building site," dealer Warren Vede said outside the building.

Options are traded at the stock exchange huilding but there is no physical market for shares on the premises, with most stock transactions made via computer in brokerage houses.

Two anonymous calls were received by the news agency.

half an hour at the stock exchange." He then gave a code-word and said: "Clear the

The IRA, fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, uses a codeword recognised by police to show that its bomh threats are serious. Anti-terrorist police rushed to the scene.

The fire alarm went off and we were told this is not a test," said Lee Hodgkins, who works in the building.

Other workers said security precautions at the stock exchange were poor and access was easy through its back entrance.

The IRA last carried out a bombing in London on June 25, targetting the Carlton Clnh, a popular meeting place for members of the ruling Conservative Party. Four people were injured in that explosion.

Founded in the 18th century, the stock exchange is now housed in a modern huilding near the Bank of England. It ceased to operate as a trading floor in 1986 when the share market was automated

The IRA has launched its most intensive bombing campaign in mainland Britain in 16 years. Police have warned military officers, politicians and anyone connected with Northern Ireland affairs to be on the lookout for suspicious packages.

The telephoned warning was the first in the current bombing wave that began almost two years

One caller, who spoke with an ago. 2 U.S. students killed in **England bus crash**

OXFORD, England (AP) --Police Friday began questioning the driver and passengers of a bus which overturned near Oxford, killing two U.S. students and injuring 59 other people.

The yellow double-decker bus carrying summer school students and staff to an arts festival went ont of control Thursday as it turned off the A40 highway near Wheatley, 10 kilometres east of Oxford, said Thames Valley Pnlice Chief Inspector John Wheeler.

No other vehicle was reported involved in the incident. Police said Friday they were interviewing the bus driver, 40-

year-old Gan Sharma, who was slightly hurt, and passengers. Authorities said some of the people on the bus were thrown through windows, some crawled out of the bus, some were pulled

free and at least three were trap-

ped inside for an hour. Amhulance superintendent Robin Finlayson said: "It was a scene of utter chaos and mayhem. There were girls and boys trapped in the coach and others strewn up the bank. They were crying, hawling and hloody... many had crush injuries."

Police identified the two dead students as 18-year-old Antumn Dubose of Lilburn, Georgia, and a 16-year-old Lawrence Levine of gers.

Chappaqua, New York state.
Police said the 61 people on the bus included 47 Americans, 5 Britons, 2 Japanese and one each from Canada, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Italy, and Mexico. The nationality of one student was not known:

Most of the Americans were gifted students on a four-week summer school course at Oxford University's Magdalen College nrganised by the Oxford Advanced Studies Programme in New York, U.S. coordinator Paul Beresford-Hill said. Their ages ranged from 16 to 20.

Max Koltuv, a 16-year-old New Yorker who broke several bones in his hand, said be and three others were sitting in the front row on the top deck of the bus.

"I knew it was going too fast when it began to turn off the road. Suddenly, it began to tip and it rolled right over onto the embankment. The four of us were thrown through the front window and out into the grass, clear of the bus," he said.

"I blacked ont but came around about 30 seconds later and all the people left on the bus were shouting and were hysterical." he said.

Police Chief Inspector Laurie Fray said 59 people were injured, four seriously. Most were teena-

Jaruzelski hints he might resign

WARSAW (AP) - President Wojciech Jaruzelski marked his first year in office Thursday and told a national television audience that he is ready to resign when the moment is right. Jaruzelski, in a rare TV appear-

ance, said he would not take a position in the public debate now raging on how long he should stay in office.

"I think it would be better if others made the statements," said Jaruzelski, who assumed office July 19, 1989. He previously was the Communist Party head and had led the country in the martial-law years and during the negotiations with the revitalised Solidarity movement that led to elections in which Poland re-

jected communism. "I don't consider myself

anointed, just performing a ser-vice for the nation and for the country," Jaruzelski said. "And the moment recognised as proper for a change of the president will be treated by me with full understanding."

Jaruzelski was elected presi-

dent for a six-year term last year during a joint meeting of the new freely elected senate and the partially democratically elected Sejm, or lower house. Some Solidarity members voted

for him or absented themselves in order to aid his election. He received only the minimum number of votes needed.

could help assure smooth relations with the Soviet Union and other Communist neighbours.

Poles believed that Jaruzelski

debate has emerged over removing Jaruzelski, viewed as an anachronistic vestige of the old Communist system, now that the Soviet Union has clearly accepted East Bloc changes and Communist rule has ended in Poland's neighbours.

Backers of Solidarity leader Lech Walesa want to have Walesa installed as president this fall by parliament. The action of Solidarity loayl to Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki this month launched a new political party, Democratic Action, which advocates an early presidential vote

by the people.

Jaruzelski has remained aloof from the political fray, but this statement appeared the clearest indication yet that the 67-yer-old In recent months, a political general will go quietly.

Stars celebrate Queen Mother Elizabeth's birthday

LONDON (AP) — Queen

Mother Elizabeth sang with gusto

as a start-studded cast took her down memory lane at a gala celebrating her 90th birthday. The show at the London Palladium Thursday night highlighted the changing face of entertainment throughout the Queen Mother's nine decades, from the Edwardian music hall to pop music and the hit musical Phantom of the Opera. The 2,298-seat theatre was packed and millions. of Britons are expected to watch the gala when it is shown on BBC-TV on Aug. 4, the Queen Mother's birthday. From "Oh tell me pretty maiden" by Flora Dora, a hugely successful musical first staged in 1900, the year of her birth, the show swept on nostalgically through the music of the 1920s. A noel coward sequence was introduced by Sir John Mills, who reminded the Queen Mother that her "great friend" would also have been 90 this year. "And I know he would have wanted to have been the first to salute you," Mills said. The Queen Mother sang along enting sastically with Bernie Winters and Leslie Crowther when they re-enacted the famous Flanagan and Allen routines Underneath the Arches and Strolling. After the show, she told Winters, who was a great favourite of her late husband, King George VI: "I had a little weep. The show brought back some very happy memories of my late husband.

Incendiary device sent to Diana

LONDON (AP) - A crade incendiary device was sent to Princess Diana at Buckingham Palace Thursday, Scotland Yard said. Within minutes, it was spotted by the palace's security system and anti-terrorist squad officer later took it away for forensic examination, a police statement said. "It must be emphasised thatthis crude incendiary device was nor's bomb and did not originate from any terrorist organisation," the statement said. Police sources said the device is believed to have been the work of "a crank."

Man comes out of coma after three years

CICAGNA, Italy (AP) — A 25year-old man came out of a nearly three-year coma and is now moving his limbs and speaking, Italian media reported. Saying "Mama," Marcello Mannaza came out of the coma Monday in a hospital near Genoa. He was responding to tickling and en-couragement from his family, the reports said. "For a few days we had realised that my son seemed to respond to external stimuli," his mother, Giuseppina, told the Italian news agency (ANSA). "He followed my movements with his eyes, he seemed to recognise my voice. He stared for a long time at signs we had hung near his bed, where we all had written hrief phrases of encouragement.

French police nab burglar with large appetite

MORLAIX, France (R) -French police have tracked down a small-time burglar with a habit of stopping off for a snack in the kitchens of homes he raided in this Brittany town. On his latest outing, the burglar with a large appetite left behind his false teeth. Police said Tuesday they identified him from dentists' re-

Blessed relief in sight for cathedral roof workers

COLOGNE (R) — To the relief of roofers, Cologne cathedral will get a lofty loo 70 metres above the nave of the soaring St. Peter's Cathedral. "Germany's most expensive toilet," said the Bild newspaper Monday of the "skyloo" with heated floor and warm running water that will cost about 260,000 marks (\$160,000). Besides the bathroom the men who work on the roof and the 160metre towers above the Rhine will also get a lunchroom of their own under the roof. Rain gutter sanitation should dramatically improve. Master roofer Envir maintaining the Gottic cathedral's root, approved: "We must spend days every year just chini ing up and down to the vestigation toilet or the workyard WC. he said.